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PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED



1986

THE YEAR IN WRESTLING



- Achievement '86 Awards
- 1986—The Year In Review
- Predictions For 1987

PRO WRESTLING

With Bill Apter

JUST TWO MATCHES have been held as we go to press, and already three men have been eliminated from the inaugural **Pro Wrestling Illustrated/UWF \$50,000 Challenge Tournament**.

In the opening match on Halloween night in Houston, **Terry Taylor** used a sunset flip to pin UWF newcomer **Buddy Landell** at the 12-minute mark. Two days later in Fort Worth, Texas, archrivals **Eddie Gilbert** and **John Tatum** were disqualified, eliminating both wrestlers.

This sets up what could be an interesting battle in the quarterfinals. Taylor, the former UWF television champion, will take on the winner of the match between current TV champ **Buddy Roberts** and **Iceman Parsons**. Of course, titles are not on the line during the tournament, but plenty of bad blood is certain to flow in a Taylor-Roberts bout. The double-elimination of Gilbert and Tatum will give the winner of the **One Man Gang-Jeff Gaylord** match a bye in the quarterfinals and a free ride into the semis.

Matches continue throughout November, leading up to the semifinals on November 28 in Houston and the final on December 12 in the same city. A first-round match in Tulsa on November 9 promised one of the most intriguing pairings of the tournament as **Hacksaw Duggan** was scheduled to meet Freebird **Michael Hayes**. With **Steve Williams** a heavy favorite to win his first-round match, a Williams-Duggan bout in the second round is also a possibility.

The word has come down from the Soviet Union. **Ivan Koloff** has been ordered to cease all relations with his nephew **Nikita Koloff**. "Kremlin say what nephew Nikita did was

(Continued on page 76)



Terry Taylor delivers a kneedrop to the head of Buddy Landell during the opening match of the PWI/UWF Challenge Tournament. As a result of the victory, Taylor advanced to the quarterfinals, where he will face the winner of a match between Buddy Roberts and Iceman Parsons.

KING'S COURT

By Peter King

WELCOME TO OUR big year-end double issue of *PWI*. As usual, this edition goes on sale in late December, right smack in the middle of the holiday season. So, with this in mind, I'm in a giving mood. In this month's column, I am selflessly handing out some Yuletide gifts to those in wrestling I feel deserve them.

For Hulk Hogan: It's been another great year for The Hulkster, and it's hard to come up with a useful gift for him. He is, after all, the man who has everything. Except his hair, that is. So I present the WWF champion with a gift certificate redeemable at Sergio's Wig and Toupee Shoppe. This way, it will leave Marvelous Marvin Hagler as the only bald world champion.



Peter King might say that Hulk Hogan is signifying how many hairs he has left on his head. That's not quite the case, but The Hulkster is thinning out a bit on top.

For Ric Flair: The NWA champion has reached new heights in wrestling ability at the same time he has skidded to new lows as a human being. I give Slick Ric a copy of the best-selling book *How To Change Your Personality*. Flair should be respected and admired by all wrestling fans. Perhaps 1987 will be the year this comes to pass.

For Vince McMahon: An industrial-sized bottle of Compoz, so he doesn't sound like a crazed madman every time he gets behind the microphone at one of those *Saturday Night's Main Event* telecasts. ('Ha ha haaaaaaaal') Also, a copy of the book *The Rise And Fall Of The Third Reich*, so Vince can see what happened to the last guy who tried to take over the world.

For NWA TV Announcer David Crockett: A seeing-eye dog, because the way this man calls wrestling matches, he must be blind.

For Randy Savage: The respect he deserves as one of the finest wrestlers in the world today.

For Miss Elizabeth: Like her protege Randy Savage, the proper respect for her abilities. As a manager, Elizabeth is considered one of the most shrewd negotiators in the WWF, and she has made Savage a very rich man.

For Dusty Rhodes: One of those snazzy wrestling outfits like the ones that The Assassins used to wear, the kind that covers a wrestler's entire body. We love to watch you wrestle Dusty, but we'd enjoy the experience even more if we didn't have to see so much of you.



Dusty Rhodes? No, The Assassin. But Peter King feels that perhaps this is the sort of ring attire Dusty should begin wearing.

For WWF TV Announcer Gorilla Monsoon: A copy of the book *Math For Beginners*, so the big ape will understand that a "capacity crowd" doesn't include empty seats. Also, a copy of *English For Beginners*, so Monsoon will know that standing ovations mean that people have to be standing. If these books don't do the trick, then he can have a copy of *How To Tell Better Lies In Public*, although I think Gorilla wrote that book himself.

(Continued on page 68)

RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating more than 150 wrestlers in 14 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

Cumulative year-long ratings: Since this is the year-end issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, we thought it would be interesting to work out some sort of system to determine cumulative ratings for the entire year. After some discussion we settled on taking our singles and tag team ratings and assigning points for each wrestler or team based on each monthly position in the *PWI* Top 10 singles and tag ratings; 10 points for a number one ranking, nine for a number two ranking, and so on, down to one point for the number 10 spot.

The following point ratings take into account the printed ratings from the April 1986 issue of *PWI* through the February 1987 issue. That's a review of 11 months, which means a maximum of 110 points in each category.



Ric Flair

1986 SINGLES RATINGS

1—Ric Flair	104
2—Hulk Hogan	99
3—Randy Savage	65
4—Magnum T.A.	56
5—Dusty Rhodes	54
6—Stan Hansen	46
7—Nikita Koloff	41
8—Terry Gordy	27
9—Kerry Von Erich	23
10—Nick Bockwinkel	19
11—Rick Rude	15
12—Lex Luger	10
13—Rick Martel	10
14—Chris Adams	7
15—Paul Orndorff	6
16—Tito Santana	6
17—Bruiser Brody	5
18—Tully Blanchard	4
19—Sgt. Slaughter	3
20—Hacksaw Duggan	2
21—Kevin Von Erich	2
22—Butch Reed	1

Singles analysis: It's no surprise that Ric Flair finished in the top spot and that Hulk Hogan is ranked number two on the year, but Randy Savage's third-place finish is testament to his consistency as a top-flight grappler, plus his endurance as WWF Intercontinental champion ... Lex Luger may have finished number 12 in the 1986 cumulative poll, but make no mistake about it: Luger's been in the Top 10 for most of the year; at the bottom of the Top 10 perhaps (thus his one- and two-point totals for most months), but he is a rookie—indeed, he's the Rookie of the Year! ... Despite what's noted about Luger above, totals of under 10 points generally indicate a transient entrance into the Top 10 ... Stan Hansen's

high finish here is indicative of how highly he was regarded when he held the AWA World title—Hansen hasn't been rated anywhere in our Top 10 since the October 1986 issue.

1986 TAG TEAM RATINGS

1—The Road Warriors	106
2—The Midnight Express	75
3—The British Bulldogs	74
4—The Rock 'n' Roll Express	74
5—Greg Valentine & Brutus Beefcake	45
6—The Fantastics	40
7—Scott Hall & Curt Hennig	28
8—Ivan & Nikita Koloff	25
9—Playboy Buddy Rose & Doug Somers	23
10—Ole & Arn Anderson	20
11—The Midnight Rockers	16
12—Steve Williams & Ted DiBiase	15
13—The Fabulous Ones	13
14—Brett Hart & Jim Neidhart	13
15—Kerry & Kevin Von Erich	7
16—Chris Adams & Gino Hernandez	6
17—The Fabulous Freebirds	5
18—Buzz Sawyer & Matt Borne	5
19—Jim Garvin & Steve Regal	3
20—The Shepherders	3
21—Magnum T.A. & Dusty Rhodes	2
22—Wahoo McDaniel & Billy Jack Haynes	2
23—Eddie Gilbert & Blade Runner Sting	1
24—Chavo & Hector Guerrero	1
25—Ivan Koloff & Krusher Khrushchev	1
26—Iron Sheik & Nikolai Volkoff	1

Tag team analysis: Like Ric Flair in the singles rankings, it's no surprise that The Road Warriors finished on top; indeed, they even outranked Flair by two points! ... Interesting that two high-flying teams like The British Bulldogs and The Rock 'n' Roll Express would be tied—further fuel to the debate as to which team is better! ... The Fantastics scored an impressive finish, showing tremendous stability and consistency of quality throughout the year ... Playboy Buddy Rose and Doug Somers are the lowest-rated world tag team title holders on the year, scoring more than 10 points (former AWA World tag champs Jim Garvin and Steve Regal were ranked in the Top 10 only once at number eight, hence their three point total).

The address for mail: You write it; we read it. Send all your letters, postcards, comments, and questions to: "Ratings Analysis" c/o *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*; Box 48; Rockville Centre, NY, 11571. □

1986 THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Section Compiled By Craig Peters

1986 WAS AN incredible year of growth for professional wrestling. Indeed, if 1985 was the year that cable television influenced the sport and more fans watched wrestling than ever before, 1986 was the year that saw promoters attempt to galvanize wrestling's national mainstream popularity to their own favor. And it was the year that saw previously regional promoters look to the national market and, in some cases, the international market as well.

This expansionistic attitude was reflected in several name changes: The Mid-South area became the Universal Wrestling Federation; Texas All-Star Wrestling became U.S.A. All-Star Wrestling (they are now defunct, having been absorbed into the World Class area); and Championship Wrestling From Florida became known as American Championship Wrestling.

This national attitude was also expressed through big changes in several major titles: The World Class area seceded from the NWA and declared their World Class American title a world title; the NWA unified the National and U.S. singles titles, plus they discarded the National tag team championship and renamed it the U.S. tag team championship; and the UWF discarded the North American title to declare a UWF heavyweight champion.

Looking back, however, perhaps the best expression of the sport's tendency toward big thinking in 1986 was the quartet of SuperCards that took place over a remarkable four-week period in the spring:

1986 SAW the World Class area mobilize its forces at the third annual David Von Erich Memorial Parade of Champions in Texas Stadium. The show marked the first Texas Stadium card following World Class secession from the NWA. Eight matches were held, including a World Class title match that saw Rick Rude defend the belt against Bruiser Brody. The card drew the smallest Texas Stadium crowd of the three, causing many to wonder whether secession was a wise idea after all.



1986 SAW the WWF present its second WrestleMania extravaganza. Four matches were held in each of three cities—with 25 celebrities called in to glamorize the proceedings. The card was seen at over 200 closed-circuit locations and made available to 192 pay-per-view cable markets nationwide. At the top of the card: Hulk Hogan defended his WWF World title against King Kong Bundy in a steel cage. More people by far saw WrestleMania 2 than witnessed any other wrestling card in history.



1986 SAW the AWA put its best foot forward with its largest show ever, WrestleRock '86. The Metrodome in Minneapolis was the host for 15 matches including a women's battle royal, two tag team cage matches, and an AWA World title defense. The show was highlighted by a country-western concert by Waylon Jennings, prompting many to call the card "WrestleCountry '86." Nearly 22,000 fans attended the card—a resounding success by AWA standards.



1986 SAW the first annual Jim Crockett Sr. Memorial Cup tag team tournament. The tournament, held in The Superdome in New Orleans, was held in two sessions and comprised 20 matches. The card brought in significant tag team talent from all over the world and lasted nearly seven hours. The prize—\$1 million and the sterling silver trophy cup—went to The Road Warriors, who defeated Ronnie Garvin and Magnum T.A. in the final round.

1986 SAW ALL OF THIS—AND MUCH, MUCH MORE...

1986 THE YEAR IN REVIEW

WE REALIZE IT GETS PRETTY HOT DOWN IN TEXAS, BUT WOULDN'T DINGO WARRIOR DO BETTER WITH A ROLL-ON, OR AT LEAST FIVE-DAY PADS, INSTEAD OF USING NO-PEST STRIPS?



GIRLS! GIRLS! PLEASE, CAN WE JUST CALM DOWN? CAN'T WE SIT DOWN AND TALK ABOUT THIS LIKE TWO LADIES? GIRLS, PLEASE!

Missy Hyatt established herself in 1986 as the valet/manager

that nobody can get along with. In the World Class area, Hyatt had a vicious feud with Sunshine. So vicious, in fact, that the World Class officials were forced to compromise their own integrity in the hope of settling

the conflict—they sanctioned a mud match between the two women. Soon thereafter, Missy left Texas for the UWF, but she hardly calmed down and became, er, demure. Just ask Dark Journey!

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT!

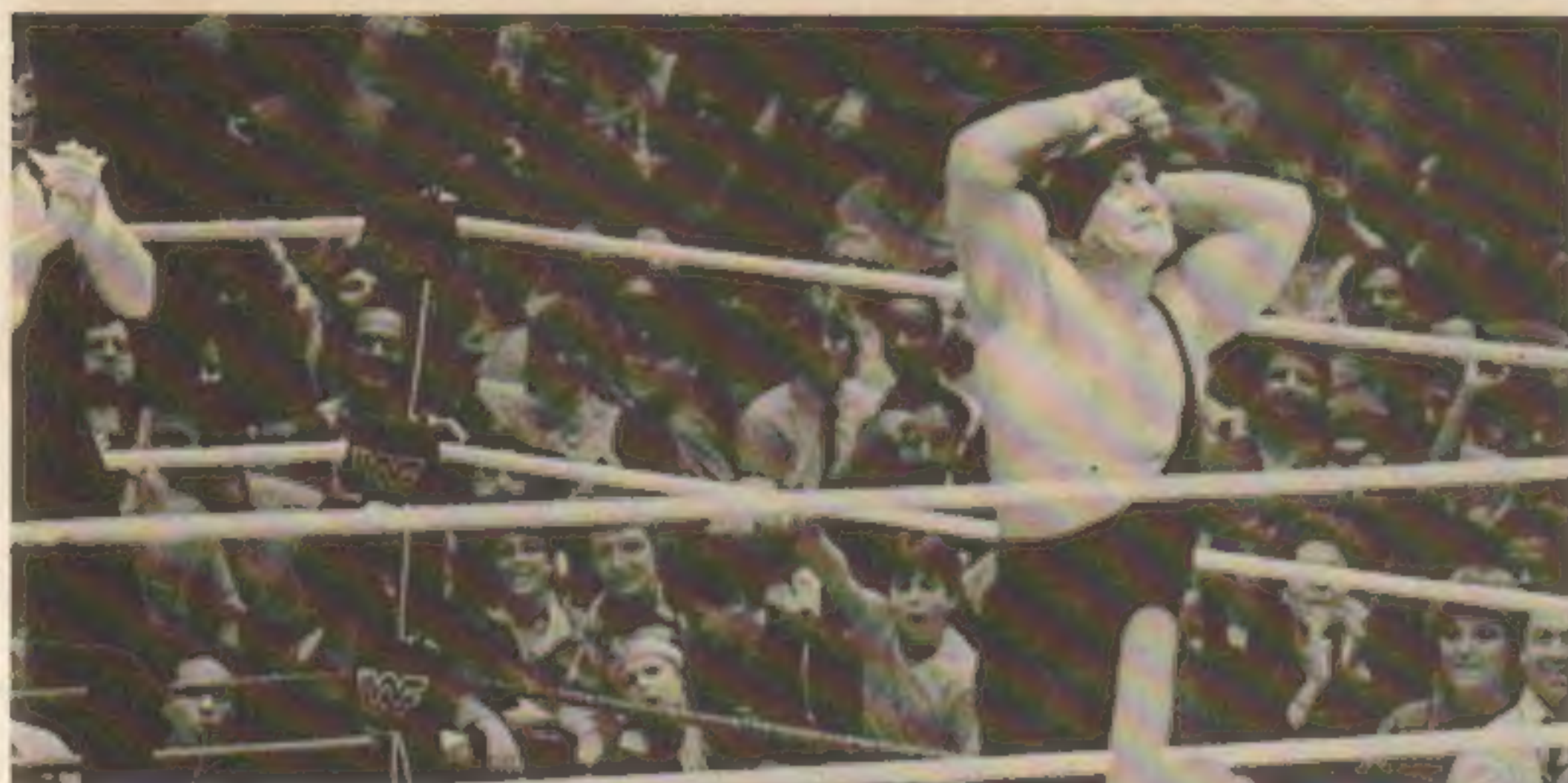
1986 was a bumper crop year for wrestlers in the movies: Capt. Lou Albano had a part in the film *Wise Guys* with Joe Piscopo ... The film *Body Slam* (a scene from the movie is pictured below) features such wrestlers as Ric Flair, Bruno Sammartino, Roddy Piper, Konga the Barbarian, Teijho Khan, and The Tonga Kid ... Sylvester Stallone's latest movie, *Over The Top*, features Terry Funk ... Jesse Ventura starred in a film for 20th Century Fox with Arnold Schwarzenegger called *The Predator*.



NOW THERE'S AN IDEA! HOW ABOUT GERRY COONEY VS. HULK HOGAN FOR WRESTLEMANIA 3? (AND DON'T THINK THEY'RE NOT CONSIDERING IT!)

On October 9, Japanese wrestling great Antonio Inoki faced former world heavyweight boxing champion Leon Spinks in a wrestler vs. boxer match in Tokyo. The match, scheduled for 12 three-minute rounds, ended in victory for Inoki (who also wore boxing gloves, though he took them off in the fifth round) when Spinks was pinned in the eighth round. The event drew a sellout crowd of 11,520, with ringside seats costing \$200.

1986 THE YEAR IN REVIEW



THEIR RING ENTRANCE MUSIC SHOULD HAVE BEEN PINK FLOYD'S "WELCOME TO THE MACHINE"

The Machines invaded the WWF late in the summer. We saw Super Machine, Giant Machine, and Big Machine. As if that wasn't enough, we soon heard from Hulk Machine (pictured here), Steele Machine, Crusher Machine, and even Piper Machine. But The Machines are hardly new to wrestling—several Machines have been wrestling in Japan for years. Andre the Giant himself wrestled in Japan last year as Giant Machine, managed by Wakamatsu.

MEETING OF THE MINDS

That's Professor Erno Rubik, inventor of Rubik's Cube, demonstrating his latest puzzle toy, Rubik's Magic, for WWF Intercontinental champion Randy Savage. Television commercials featuring Savage and Rubik are part of a series of ads also featuring Rubik and Dracula, and Rubik and Napoleon.

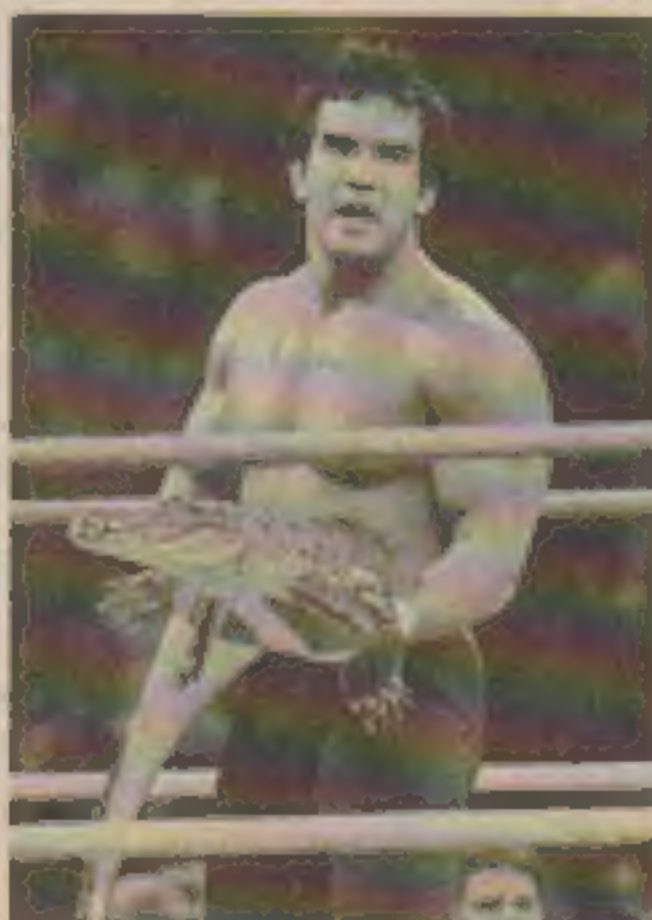


THE BEST PART WAS WHEN VINCE McMAHON GOT HIT WITH A PITCHER OF WATER DURING THE PRE-MATCH PRESS CONFERENCE!

The Winter 1986 edition of our sister publication *Wrestling Superstars* presented the inaugural installment of a new feature: Superstar Dream Match. This one pitted Hulk Hogan against Ric Flair in a monumental battle of champions. Hogan scored the official victory when Flair flipped the WWF champ over the top rope, but Flair claimed a moral victory after the bout when he battered and bloodied Hogan by slamming him into the ringpost several times and capturing him in the figure-four leglock.



IT'S A JUNGLE OUT THERE!



"DO YOU REALLY WANT TO HURT ME? DO YOU REALLY WANT TO MAKE ME CRY?" COME TO THINK OF IT—YES WE DO!

Mid-Southern area wrestler Tony Falk, apparently as a reflection of his love of the band Culture Club, has adopted the name Boy Tony. Maybe somebody should tell Falk that (1) Culture Club hasn't had a hit record in almost three years, and (2) Boy George hasn't looked even remotely like this in almost three years.

1986 THE YEAR IN REVIEW

NUMBERS '86

\$100 was the cost of a ringside seat at WrestleMania 2.
\$1,000 fines levied by World Class officials against Bruiser Brody and Terry Gordy for fighting in the dressing rooms.



\$5,000 is the cost of Hawk's new steel-spiked leather vest that he wears to the ring.
\$5,000 fine levied against Jim Cornette by the NWA for repeatedly interfering in tag team title matches.
\$7,000 bounty collected by Rip Oliver on March 1 in Portland, Oregon; Bobby Jagers paid the bounty money to Oliver for handing Tom Zenk his first Pacific Northwest loss.
\$12,000 donated to the Spinal Cord Society of Canada as the result of the Mosca-Mania wrestling card in Hamilton, Ontario, on February 2.
\$28,000 is the reported cost of constructing the new NWA World heavyweight title belt.
\$48,000 is the price at year's end of a 30-second commercial on NBC's *Saturday Night's Main Event* wrestling program.
\$50,000 in prize money offered by *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* to the winner of the first-ever PWI/UWF Challenge Cup Tournament.
\$50,000 awarded to Jimmy Hart for winning a Madison Square Garden 22-man battle royal; Hart hid from the wrestlers during most of the match!

\$100,000 bonus awarded to Terry Gordy following his final-round tournament victory over Jim Duggan for the UWF heavyweight title.

\$100,000 offered by J.D. Costello to Jerry Lawler to join J.D.'s "dynasty"; Lawler refused the offer.



\$100,000 collected by Andre the Giant for winning the "open invitational" battle royal in Chicago at WrestleMania 2.
\$1,000,000 is the reported value of the contract signed by The Fabulous Freebirds to wrestle exclusively for the UWF.
\$1,000,000 awarded to The Road Warriors for winning the first annual Jim Crockett Sr. Memorial Cup tag team tournament.
\$1,200,000 in estimated gate receipts (in Canadian dollars)—a new record, nearly double the previous one—collected by the WWF in Toronto when 70,000 fans packed Exhibition Stadium for an August 28 card headlined by a Hulk Hogan-Paul Orndorff match.
\$4,000,000 in estimated total gross revenue raised by the 14 Great American Bash cards.
\$20,000,000 in gross sales of LJN Toys' dolls of Hulk Hogan, Jimmy Snuka, Iron Sheik, John Studd, and other WWF stars, according to published reports early in 1986.
\$20,000,000 is the estimated value of the estate reportedly left to J.D. Costello when his mother died in April.

1986 THE YEAR IN REVIEW

WHAT PAGE DO THEY PRINT THE AUSTRALIAN RULES FOOTBALL SCORES ON?

The front cover of each issue of *The Grapevine*, the popular program for Florida area wrestling, declares itself as "America's Most Comprehensive Sports Newspaper."



AS IF "MIDNIGHT ROCKERS" WASN'T ORIGINAL ENOUGH! WHAT'S NEXT—HULK HENNIG? "THE AMERICAN DREAM" BUDDY ROSE? "MR. WONDERFUL" SILO SAM?

AWA promoters, seeking a new and more original nickname for Scott Hall (previously known by the clever epithet "Big" Scott Hall), in October began calling the husky grappler "Magnum" Scott Hall.

LET'S SEE . . . HOW ABOUT SAM HOUSTON AS NORTON, BABY DOLL AS ALICE, AND MISSY HYATT AS TRIXIE?

On August 23, 1986, Capt. Lou Albano had the opportunity to play Ralph Kramden, the part made famous by Jackie Gleason in *The Honeymooners*. The occasion was a New York City convention of RALPH—Royal Association for the Longevity and Preservation of *The Honeymooners*.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Salvatore Bellomo



Lady Maxine



Buck Zumhofs

ALSO:

Tarras Bulba
Terry Funk
Mike Graham
Humongous
Armand Hussein
Kabuki
Eddie Mansfield
Mil Mascaras
Steve O
Nord the Barbarian
Wendi Richter
David Sammartino
Brett Sawyer
David Shultz
Sgt. Slaughter
The Spoiler
John Stossel
Kevin Sullivan
David Wolff

1986 THE YEAR IN REVIEW



YOU WANT TO KNOW WHO'S WHO, RIGHT? OKAY, NOW, LET'S SEE . . . THAT'S ROAD WARRIOR ANIMAL ON THE LEFT, THEN ROAD WARRIOR HAWK IN THE MIDDLE . . . NO, WAIT, ROAD WARRIOR DUSTY ON THE LEFT . . . NO, WAIT A SECOND, THAT'S NOT QUITE RIGHT EITHER . . . FIRST HAWK, THEN ANIMAL, THEN . . . HOLD ON, LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT . . . DUSTY, THEN ANIMAL, THEN . . . DAMN! YOU KNOW—THIS ALWAYS HAPPENS TO ME! IT'S SO EASY TO GET THEM MIXED UP!



SO WHO NEEDS SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE? WHAT YOU NEED IS A VCR AND A LOT OF TAPES!

Wrestling junkies in Atlanta can overdose on the sport on a Saturday night. WATL-TV Channel 36 broadcasts no less than 7½ hours of wrestling each Saturday night on a show called *Superstars Of Wrestling*, beginning at 8:00 p.m. The marathon, hosted by Joe Pedicino (here interviewing Paul Orndorff), includes coverage of UWF, World Class, AWA, Continental, Mid-Southern and Deep South area wrestling (until recently, WATL-TV also broadcast WWF wrestling, but WWF officials chose to withdraw from the program). A big part of the marathon is a one hour show called *Pro Wrestling This Week*, hosted by Joe Pedicino and veteran wrestling analyst Gordon Solie. PWTW, a wrapup of news from all around the country plus international matches and classic bouts from the '50s and '60s (really an *Entertainment Tonight* for wrestling fans), is beginning to receive national attention via syndication to local markets across the country.

AND NOW, THE WINNER OF THE MAX HEADROOM LOOK-ALIKE CONTEST—THE ENVELOPE PLEASE (TA-DAAAAAAA!!!) . . . KEN RESNICK!



IN MEMORIUM

Warren Bockwinkel
Adrien Desbois
Bubba Douglas
Bulldog Gannon
Gene Gordon
Pierre Lefebvre
El Solitario
Tarzan Tyler



Gino Hernandez

1986 THE YEAR IN REVIEW

INJURY REPORT



Chris Adams was temporarily blinded by Gino Hernandez when a mysterious black liquid was thrown in his face. There is a 75 percent chance that Adams would be blind for life. Fortunately, after several months of rehabilitation, Adams regained nearly all of his sight.

Baby Doll landed in the hospital after a brutal attack by Jim Cornette, in which Cornette jammed the handle of his tennis racket into Baby Doll's abdomen. It was speculated that Baby Doll's injuries would prevent her from ever having children. Happily, that was not the case.

Paul Boesch, long time promoter in Houston, underwent triple bypass heart surgery early in the year.

Dino Bravo suffered a burst appendix only days before he was to compete with partner Rick Martel in the first annual Jim Crockett Sr. Memorial Cup tag team tournament. He was the only one of the 52 wrestlers scheduled to appear in the tournament who did not show up.

Haystacks Calhoun had his leg amputated early in the year. He reports that he would welcome mail from fans, and you can write to him at Celina Nursing Home, 601 Ohio Circle, Box 158, Celina, Texas, 75009.

Hacksaw Duggan sustained a concussion and needed 20 stitches to close a wide gash in his forehead following an attack by One Man Gang prior to Duggan's match against Terry Gordy—that being the final-round match of the tournament to determine the first UWF heavyweight champion.

Hulk Hogan suffered "a cerebral or brain concussion" and "multiple injuries of his low back or lumbar spine, his ribs, and his cervical spine," according to Dr. Robert Ponovich, when King Kong Bundy attacked him during a title match with Magnificent Muraco in Phoenix, Arizona. Hogan wrestled in New York's Madison Square Garden two days later and defeated Randy Savage.

Scott Irwin underwent a CATscan in April and learned that he has an inoperable malignant brain tumor. He subsequently has undergone radiation therapy.

Krusher Khrushchev suffered extensive cartilage damage to his right knee in a match against Sam Houston when The Road



Warriors interfered in the bout on behalf of Houston. The injury kept him out of action for nearly six months.

Magnum T.A. was critically injured when his Porche 911 crashed into a utility pole in Charlotte, North Carolina. His fifth vertebra shattered in the collision, sending bone fragments

into his spinal cord. Extensive surgery was required to save his life, including bone grafts from his hip to replace the shattered vertebra. Limb movement was



impaired severely, requiring extensive physical therapy. A return to the ring again is a virtual impossibility.

Rick Morton had a tough year, thanks mainly to Ric Flair, who rubbed Morton's face in concrete, causing severe facial lacerations, and weeks later broke his nose.

Chigusa Nagayo, one half of the extremely popular Japanese tag team The Crush Girls, underwent an operation in January to correct multiple knee injuries.

Road Warrior Hawk suffered two cracks in his left fibula during a match in Japan. He was wrestling with Animal against Yoshiaki Yatsu and Riki Choshu in a match in Monoka. Speculation is that Jim Cornette paid Yatsu and Choshu to inflict the injury.

Buddy Rogers underwent quadruple bypass heart surgery late in the summer. He is recovering well, and would like to hear from fans and friends, who can write to him in care of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*. We will forward all mail.

Jimmy Snuka was taken to a Las Vegas hospital in October following a match with Col. DeBeers. As Snuka was about to execute his "superfly" leap off the ropes, DeBeers pushed

him off and Snuka crashed to the concrete floor. DeBeers delivered several piledrivers to bloodying Snuka and sending him to the hospital with severe neck, hip, knee, and foot injuries.

Kerry Von Erich was involved in a motorcycle accident on June 4 and suffered a compound fracture of his right ankle, a dislocated right hip, and lacerations to



his right knee. He underwent 20 hours of surgery in three days. Kerry is not expected to return to ring action until at least late spring '87.

Kevin Von Erich experienced repeated nagging shoulder injuries that kept him out of action on several major cards, including the third annual Texas Stadium extravaganza.

Steve Williams found himself in the hospital following an attack at the hands of The Freebirds, who delivered a piledriver to Williams on a concrete floor. It was the same injury they inflicted on Ted D'Bease in 1981 in Atlanta.

1986 THE YEAR IN REVIEW

QUOTABLES '86



"The old Adnan Adonis had black hair, and he used to wear a black leather jacket and black tights into the ring. Now the Adorable Adnan Adonis has blond hair with pastel bows in it, and he wears pink tights. That's my influence!"

—Jimmy Hart, manager of Adorable Adrian Adonis, speaking in *The Chicago Sun-Times* about how his rock 'n' roll fashion sense affects the men he manages



"Everybody thinks the federation is in it just for the money. It's not so. They are concerned for the kids of this country. This is what separates the WWF from others, they have concern and show it."

—Ernie Ladd, at the Foxboro, Massachusetts, WWF "King of the Ring" tournament, speaking about his position as WWF goodwill ambassador

"I would wrestle Hulk Hogan when I'm 50 years old. Hulk Hogan is a good entertainer. He's a good guitar player. I wouldn't tell you that I can play the guitar better than he does. I wouldn't tell you that I can entertain you better than he does. But I will tell you that I wrestle better than he does."

—Former WWF champion Bob Backlund, on his continuing campaign to secure a match against current WWF kingpin Hulk Hogan



"I visualize the tumor as a devil and I visualize the radiation coming in there as a big lightning bolt and just knocking the hell out of it. [John Wayne and Yul Brynner] set the role model. They fought it to the end, and, you know, I can't do any less than that."

—Long Rider Scott Irwin, on his current battle against a cancerous brain tumor



"I want to get out and wrestle tomorrow night."

—Kerry Von Erich, speaking from his hospital bed just days after the June motorcycle accident that kept him out of the ring for the rest of 1986

"The fan has and always will be our main consideration. One of the many things I learned from my father was that it's better to develop a good relationship with your customers than to squeeze them for every penny."

—NWA Promoter Jim Crockett, interviewed in the April 1986 *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*

"I always knew I was gonna be different. I always knew I was gonna do something different with my life—I just felt that I gotta do something weird. I can't handle a 9 to 5 job, exaaactly."

—Hillbilly Jim, interviewed in *The Toronto Sun* about his choice of career

"Wade Boggs likes chicken, but he doesn't bring one to the plate when he comes to bat."

—Television interviewer Larry King questioning WWF head Vince McMahon about why Jake Roberts brings a snake to the ring

"Hulk Hogan couldn't last five minutes in a Mid-South match!"

—UWF (formerly Mid-South) President Bill Watts, interviewed in the April 1986 edition of *Inside Wrestling*

AS A NATION MOURNS, THE TRUE WRESTLING FAN WONDERS: WHAT WILL LORD AL HAYS DO WITH ALL OF HIS CHEESY TUXEDOS NOW?

Wrestling TNT, the widely criticized WWF "talk show" broadcast on USA cable network, was canceled at the end of the summer. Earlier in the year, Gene Okerlund had replaced Vince McMahon as host; Lord Al Hays remained co-host. Many reasons were given for the axing, including: (1) low ratings, (2) an unwillingness by the WWF to produce any more shows, (3) the inability of WWF head Vince McMahon to give the program the proper creative attention, and (4) ratings aside, USA Network simply got tired of the show. Varying levels of validity have been attributed to each reason, and, like many things surrounding the WWF, the truth will probably never be known.



1986 THE YEAR IN REVIEW

SHARPEN YOUR PENCILS, KIDS. IT'S TIME FOR A QUIZ: NOW LOOK *REAL* CLOSE—WHAT IS IT ABOUT ONE OF THE MEN IN THESE FOUR PHOTOS THAT SETS HIM APART FROM THE OTHERS? (HINT: IT'S NOT THAT ADRIAN ADONIS IS THE ONLY ONE NOT TO HAVE WRESTLED IN THE FLORIDA AREA IN 1986)



ARE THESE THE KIND OF BOYS SHE WOULD WANT TO BRING HOME TO MEET MOTHER?

A contest in the May 1986 *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* provided readers the opportunity to meet The Road Warriors as Hawk and Animal demanded, "Hey, twerp do you have enough guts to meet us?" Contest entrants had to write a 50-word-or-less reply "You'd better believe I have enough guts to meet The Road Warriors. Want proof? Just listen to this..." The winner was Laura Gnippaldi, age 22, of Eatontown, New Jersey. She received a pair of tickets to a Philadelphia NWA card, transportation to and from the arena by



limousine, and, of course, met Hawk and Animal. "It was an experience I'll never forget," she said

EVERYONE AT PWI, NOT TO MENTION HIS OWN WIFE, IS DISAPPOINTED THAT BILL APTER DIDN'T MAKE THE LIST The September edition of *Ms. Magazine* listed Hulk Hogan among its gallery of "sexiest balding men." Hogan was in good company: Also on the list were Bruce Willis from the TV series *Moonlighting*, actor Jack Nicholson, and Sting (the rock singer, not the Blade Runner)

1987 SHOULD BE THEIR YEAR



Lex Luger



Midnight Rockers



Sting



Steve Williams

FORGET THE JIM CROCKETT SR. AND DAVID VON ERICH MEMORIAL WRESTLING CARDS—HOW ABOUT A GYPSY ROSE LEE MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT FOR THESE GUYS?

In May, Magnum T.A. was stripped of his U.S. title for attacking NWA President Bob Geigel... Also in May, Billy Jack Haynes was stripped of his Pacific Northwest heavyweight title following his non-participation in a scheduled NWA World title match against Ric Flair... And again in May: Carlos Colon was stripped of his WWC heavyweight title when, due to injuries sustained at the hands of Abdullah the Butcher, he was unable to defend that championship... In June, Stan Hansen was stripped of his AWA World heavyweight title for failing to wrestle Nick Bockwinkel in Denver; the belt was awarded to Bockwinkel... A rough blow was dealt to democracy as the AWA stripped Sgt. Slaughter of the Americas title in August because of inactivity

1986

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

CHAMPIONSHIP CHANGES '86

A review of major title changes in 1986 up to press time. This is by no means an exhaustive list; many regional titles have been omitted from this list. For the most complete record of championship changes through the year, refer to the "Roll Call Of Champions" printed monthly in our sister publication Inside Wrestling.

January 1: Dick Slater captures the North American title from Butch Reed in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

January 3: The Fabulous Freebirds defeat Kerry & Kevin Von Erich & Brian Adidas for the World Class six-man title in Dallas.



January 3: Michael Hayes & Buddy Roberts vs. Kevin Von Erich

January 4: Arn Anderson captures the NWA TV title from Wahoo McDaniel in Charlotte, North Carolina.

January 11: Sam Houston captures the Mid-Atlantic title from Krusher Khrushchev in Atlanta.

January 13: The Fantastics defeat The Sheepherders in the final round of a tournament in Memphis to capture the Mid-Southern tag team belts.

January 18: Scott Hall & Curt Hennig capture the AWA World tag team belts from Jim Garvin & Steve Regal in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

January 21: Tom Zenk becomes the new Pacific Northwest champion by defeating Bobby Jagers in Portland, Oregon.

January 23: Bobby Jagers & Rip Oliver beat Tom Zenk & Scott Doring for the Pacific Northwest tag team belts in Salem, Oregon.

February 2: The Midnight Express defeat The Rock 'n' Roll Express for the NWA World tag team belts in Atlanta.

February 5: Riki Choshu & Yoshiaki Yatsu capture the All-Japan International tag team belts from Jumbo Tsuruta & Genichiro Tenryu in Osaka, Japan.

February 8: Randy Savage captures the WWF Intercontinental title from Tito Santana in Boston.

February 11: Dick Slater captures the North American title from Jake Roberts in Oklahoma City.



February 11: Dick Slater vs. Jake Roberts

February 19: The Cuban Assassin captures the Florida title from Kendall Windham in Tampa, Florida.

March 4: Tully Blanchard captures the National heavyweight title from Dusty Rhodes in Spartanburg, South Carolina.

March 9: Bobby Jagers defeats Tom Zenk for the Pacific Northwest title in Findley, Washington.

March 10: Brian Adidas captures the World Class Texas title from The Grappler in Ft. Worth, Texas.

March 11: Kendall Windham captures the Florida title from The Cuban Assassin in Tampa, Florida.

March 16: Jim Duggan defeats Buzz Sawyer (who was substituting for Dick Slater) for the North American title in Oklahoma City. . . . The Sheepherders defeat The Fantastics for the UWF tag team belts in Oklahoma City.

1986 THE YEAR IN REVIEW

March 18: Black Bart defeats Sam Houston for the Mid-Atlantic title in Mooresville, North Carolina

March 30: The Fantastics capture the UWF tag team belts from The Shepherders in Tulsa, Oklahoma

April 5: Riki Choshu captures the PWF heavyweight title from Stan Hansen in Yokohama, Japan.

April 7: The British Bulldogs defeat Greg Valentine & Brutus Beefcake for the WWF World tag team belts at WrestleMania 2 in Rosemont, Illinois



April 7: Dynamite Kid vs. Greg Valentine

April 12: Billy Jack Haynes captures the Pacific Northwest title from Bobby Jagers in Portland, Oregon.

May 4: Kerry & Lance Von Erch & Steve Simpson (substituting for Kevin Von Erch) capture the World Class six-man title from The Fabulous Freebirds in Texas Stadium, Irving, Texas; Simpson's share of the title would later be given to Kevin Von Erch, while Kerry's share would go to Mike Von Erch following Kerry's motorcycle accident

May 17: Buddy Rose & Doug Somers capture the AWA World tag team belts from Scott Hall & Curt Hennig in Hammond, Indiana ... The Road Warriors & Dusty Rhodes capture the NWA six-man title from Ivan & Nikita Koloff & Baron Von Raschke in Baltimore.

May 21: The Ninja captures the Florida title from Kendall Windham in Tampa, Florida

May 25: Terry Taylor captures the UWF TV championship from Buzz Sawyer in Tulsa, Oklahoma

May 30: Terry Gordy defeats Jim Duggan in the final round of a Houston tournament to determine the first UWF heavyweight champion.

June 13: Rip Oliver wins a battle royal in Portland, Oregon, to determine the new Pacific Northwest heavyweight champion.

June 19: Antonio Inoki defeats Dick Murdoch in the final round of a tournament in Tokyo, Japan, to become the IWGP champion.

June 28: Sherri Martel wins the AWA Women's championship from Candi Divine in Oakland, California.

June 29: Nick Bockwinkel is awarded the AWA World title by default in Denver when Stan Hansen refuses to wrestle.

July 4: Chris Adams captures the World Class title from Rick Rude in Dallas, Texas ... Buzz Sawyer captures the World Class Texas title from Brian Adidas in Dallas

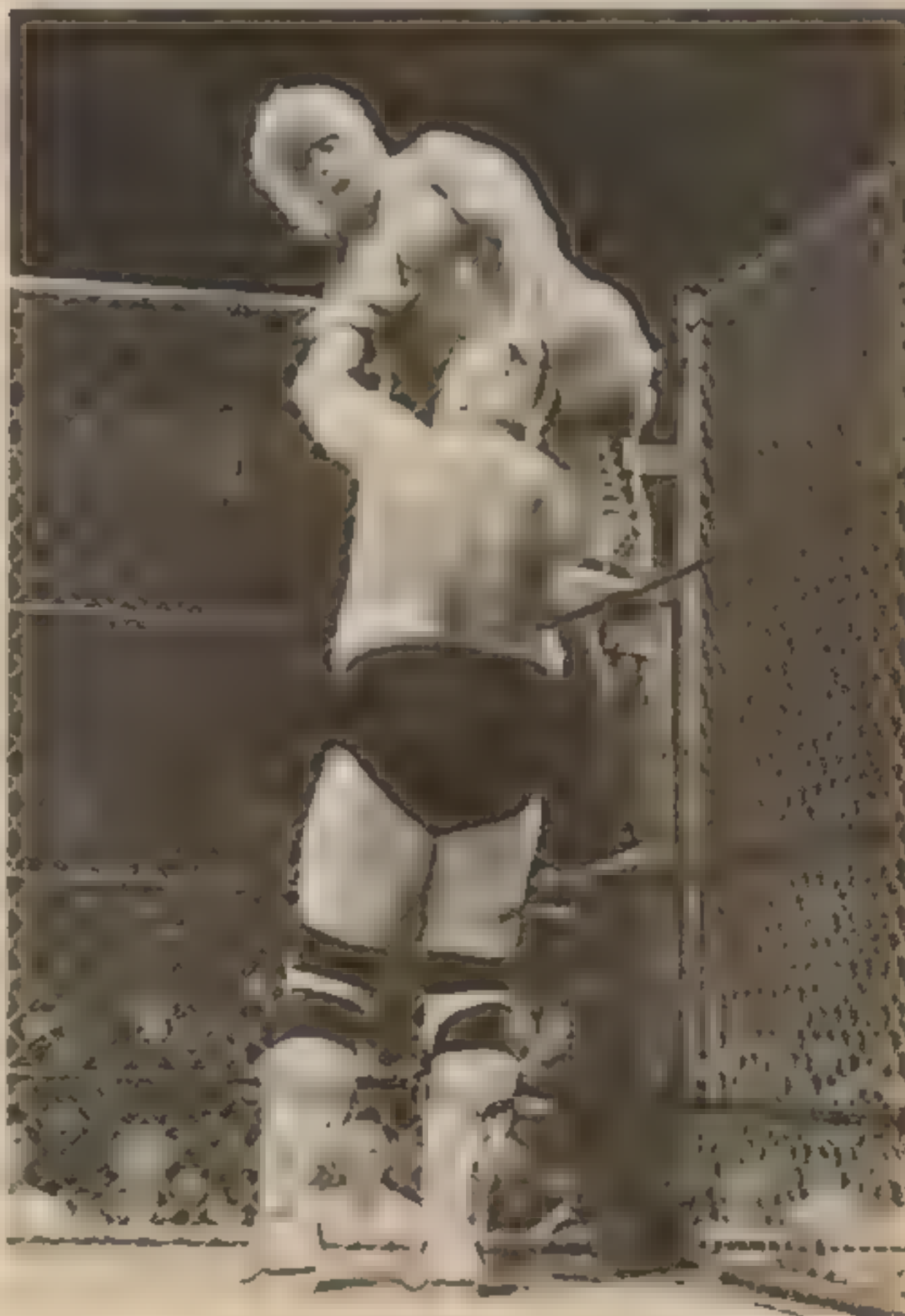
July 12: The Fabulous Ones defeat The Shepherders in the final round of a tournament in Portland, Oregon, to determine new U.S. tag team champions.

July 15: Ron Bass captures the Florida title from Kendall Windham in Tampa, Florida.

July 20: Eddie Gilbert & Sting defeat The Fantastics in Tulsa, Oklahoma, for the UWF tag team belts.

July 22: Masked Superstar captures the Southern title from Lex Lugar in Tampa, Florida.

July 26: Dusty Rhodes captures the NWA World title from Ric Flair in Greensboro, North Carolina



July 26: Dusty Rhodes vs. Ric Flair

1986

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

July 28: Bam Bam Bigelow wins a 23-man battle royal in Memphis to capture the Mid-Southern heavyweight title.

July 29: Lex Luger defeats Masked Superstar to regain the Southern title in Tampa, Florida



July 29: Lex Luger vs. Masked Superstar

July 31: Stan Hansen captures the All-Japan International title from Jumbo Tsuruta in Tokyo

August 2: Steve Regal defeats Denny Brown in Atlanta for the NWA junior heavyweight title.

August 5: Osamu Kido & Akira Maeda defeat Kengo Kimura & Tatsumi Fujinami in Tokyo to become the new IWGP International tag team champions

August 9: Ric Flair regains the NWA World title from Dusty Rhodes in St. Louis.

August 16: The Rock 'n' Roll Express defeat The Midnight Express for the NWA World tag team belts in Philadelphia.

August 17: Nikita Koloff wins the U.S. title by defeating Magnum T.A. in Charlotte, North Carolina, in the seventh match of a best-of-seven series.

September 1: Buzz Sawyer & Matt Borne defeat Chris Adams & Lance Von Erch in Ft. Worth, Texas, in the final round of a tournament to fill the vacant World Class tag team championship.

September 2: Ronnie Garvin defeats Black Bart for the Mid-Atlantic championship in Spartanburg, South Carolina

September 16: Ron Bass captures the Florida title from Barry Windham in Tampa, Florida.

September 20: Rip Oliver defeats Cocoa Samoa for the Pacific Northwest title in Seattle, Washington.

September 21: Carlos Colon captures the vacant World Wrestling Council heavyweight title by defeating Terry Funk in the final round of a tournament in San Juan, Puerto Rico

September 27: The Fantastics defeat Eddie Gilbert & Sting in Tulsa, Oklahoma, to fill the vacant UWF tag team championship.

September 28: Nikita Koloff unifies the U.S. and National titles by defeating National champion Wahoo McDaniel in Atlanta, Georgia ... Ivan Koloff & Krusher Khrushchev defeat The Kansas Jayhawks in the final round of a tournament to determine new U.S. tag team champions



September 28: Ivan Koloff vs. Dutch Mantel

October 7: The Sheepherders defeat The Fabulous Ones in Tampa, Florida, to capture the Florida version of the U.S. tag team title

October 8: Barry Windham captures the Florida title from Ron Bass in Tampa, Florida

October 12: Kevin Von Erch defeats Black Bart in Dallas to become the World Class heavyweight champion

October 26: John Tatum & Jack Victory capture the UWF tag team belts from The Fantastics in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Achievement '86

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

THE FIRST YEAR is not supposed to be like this. Rookies are supposed to take their bumps, lose more than their share of matches, and (if you'll excuse the pun) learn the ropes. They're not expected to win championships and dominate a region. Not the way Lex Luger did in 1986.

The 280-pound Chicago native won the Southern title from Jesse Barr on February 14 in Orlando, Florida, and held the belt for all but seven days up to press time. He lost the title to Masked Superstar on July 22 in controversial fashion, but reasserted himself one week later by defeating Superstar. Luger has dominated Florida ever since.

Luger has been so impressive, in fact, that many experts wonder why he remains in Florida. Why doesn't he go on to the World Championship area and campaign extensively for the NWA World title? These experts forget one thing.

Luger is a baby. Man, he's only a rookie!

LEX LUGAR

17,927 votes



Lex Luger is a special kind of wrestler that doesn't come along too often. Large, muscular, good-looking, exceptionally gifted, and eager to learn, Lu-

gar faces a career of unlimited potential.

"He's gorgeous and he's a great wrestler," wrote Jeanine Partlirt of Orlando. "When he steps into the ring, every eye in the arena is on him. He has tremendous charisma. He's unbeatable. The Southern title usually bounces around, but Luger owns it. He's so much better than the competition, it's scary."

PAST WINNERS

1985: Nord The Barbarian
1984: Mike Von Erch
1983: Angelo Mosca Jr
1982: Brad Armstrong
1981: David Sammartino
1980: Terry Taylor
1979: Sweet Brown Sugar
1978: Tommy Rich
1977: Rick Steamboat
1976: Bob Backlund
1975: Ric Flair
1974: Larry Zbyszko
1973: Cowboy Bob Orton/Tony Garea (tie)
1972: Mike Graham

RUNNERS-UP

CRUSHER YURKOF

14,592 votes



First runner-up: Bam Bam Bigelow, we presume? Managed by Larry Sharpe, this 390-pound monster burst onto the scene in June and quickly won the Mid-Southern title. Then he moved to the World Class area, changed his name to Crusher Yurkof, and quickly won the WCCW television title. Yurkof may soon become the most dominating wrestler in the sport.

STING

11,392 votes



Second runner-up: Surprised? We were. Sting held the UWF tag team belts with Eddie Gilbert for a portion of the year, but we never realized that the fans recognized his ability. Sting is a fine physical specimen and not a bad scientific wrestler. If he can get away from the influence of Gilbert, he'll be a candidate for Wrestler of the Year some day.

TOM MAGEE

7,193 votes



Third runner-up: Wrestling scouts saw him and immediately recognized the potential in Tom Magee. His incredible physique, well-rounded athletic abilities, and surprising wrestling skills make him one of the men most likely to take the sport into the 1990s. Magee received over 7,000 votes, and that's as much a tribute to the knowledgeable fans as it is to this young

VOTES FOR OTHERS (13,716)

Some of the top vote-getters who did not capture a runner up spot include: The Warlord, Leon White, Ed Gantner, Sean Royal, Ted Arcidi, and Chris Champion.

Achievement '86

INSPIRATIONAL WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

THE IRONY IS incredible and, at the same time, excruciatingly sad. Mike Von Erch won the Inspirational Wrestler of the Year award in 1985 because of his courageous battle against toxic shock syndrome. That illness was a result of surgery to correct shoulder injuries—injuries suffered in a match against Gino Hernandez.

This year, the fans chose Chris Adams as their inspiration. Again, Hernandez had an influence. Early in 1986, Hernandez threw a black liquid in Adams' eyes, blinding his former best friend and tag team partner. Doctors predicted that Adams would never see again, but he fought back. Like Mike Von Erch, Adams overcame the brutality of Gino Hernandez.

But Gino is dead now. His legacy in wrestling is the damage he caused and the men who overcame his brutality.

During the long, horrible months of recovery, Adams constantly thought about his late friend and decided to

CHRIS ADAMS

15,826 votes



fight back. For Gino. He returned to the ring and won the World Class championship. Now he's campaigning in the UWF for Terry Gordy's title.

Chris Adams fought impossible odds—and won.

"Chris proved that anything is possible," wrote Sheryl Welch of Dallas. "I think everybody gave up hope of Chris ever returning. Then, not only did he come back, but he won the World Class title. He's an inspiration to anybody who's down and out, because he proved you should never give up. He set an amazing example."

PAST WINNERS

- 1985: Mike Von Erch
- 1984: Sgt. Slaughter
- 1983: Hulk Hogan
- 1982: Roddy Piper
- 1981: Bob Backlund
- 1980: Junkyard Dog
- 1979: Chief Jay Strongbow
- 1978: Blackjack Mulligan
- 1977: Bob Backlund
- 1976: Bruno Sammartino
- 1975: Mike McCord
- 1974: Dick Murdoch
- 1973: Johnny Valentine
- 1972: Lord Al Hays

RUNNERS-UP

MAGNUM T.A.

14,925 votes



First runner-up: If we had allowed the voting to run another week, Magnum T.A. might have been an easy winner. His summer-long battle against Nikita Koloff touched fans who love the United States, but his near-fatal car accident touched everyone. Magnum T.A. is still lying in a hospital, his battle to regain health an inspiration to fans everywhere.

KERRY VON ERCH

11,483 votes



Second runner-up: June 6, Argyle, Texas. A terrible motorcycle accident almost claims the life of Kerry Von Erch. One of wrestling's greats is in the hospital and a world wonders: Are we about to lose another Von Erch? The answer was no. Kerry fought back and is still hoping to return to the ring. Last year Mike was an inspiration to all. This year Kerry took the torch.

STEVE WILLIAMS

7,892 votes



Third runner-up: The impact of a piledriver on a cement floor has been known to crack skulls, end careers, and take the drive out of even the bravest wrestler. When The Freebirds gave Steve Williams such a piledriver, many people felt that Dr. Death's career was over. But he fought back, recovered, and has since avenged the injury. Revenge is sweet!

VOTES FOR OTHERS (13,917)

Some of the top vote-getters who did not capture a runner-up spot include Mike Von Erch, Roddy Piper, Dusty Rhodes, Bruno Sammartino, Jimmy Snuka, and Ric Flair.

Achievement '86

MOST IMPROVED WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

THERE WAS A time when Terry Gordy was considered The Freebirds' weakest link. Those days are over.

Gordy was basically the same wrestler he always was when he won the UWF title on May 30 by defeating Hacksaw Duggan, but his championship tenure has made him better than ever. When the year began, Gordy was not even close to landing a spot in the *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* Top 10 ratings; now he's number four.

In fact, Gordy has risen a step above Freebird mates Buddy Roberts and Michael Hayes. His improvement has been stunning. Most people didn't expect Gordy's title reign to last more than a week. Even Roberts and Hayes sometimes seemed skeptical about their friend's chances of keeping the belt. Gordy proved the experts wrong.

The voting for Most Improved Wrestler of the Year was the most unusual

TERRY GORDY 13,582 votes



of all the categories. Readers were split in their opinions as 23,583 votes were tallied in the "Votes for Others" department. Gordy received 13,582

votes, topping first runner-up Scott Hall by 3,187 votes.

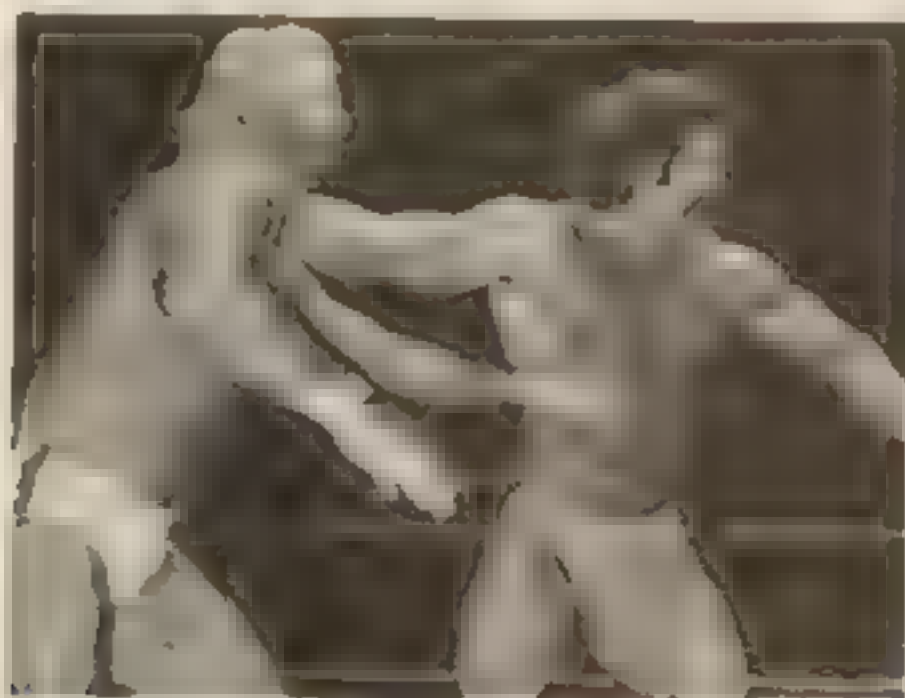
"I hate Gordy, but you have to respect the way the man has climbed to the top this year," wrote Larry Roberts of Tulsa, Oklahoma. "When he first came to the UWF, I was told by some friends that he was an ordinary wrestler, and he was. At first. Now he honestly gives Duggan a hard time and has honorably defended the UWF belt."

PAST WINNERS

1985: Steve Williams
1984: Billy Jack Haynes
1983: Brett Wayne Sawyer
1982: Barry Windham
1981: Kevin Sullivan
1980: Tony Atlas
1979: Tommy Rich
1978: Dino Bravo

RUNNERS-UP

SCOTT HALL 10,395 votes



First runner-up: You can call him Big, or you can call him Magnum, or you can call him the man who spent much of 1986 fighting Col. DeBeers. Hall is a huge man with a tremendous build who finally seems to be making the most of his natural gifts. Although he's wasted quite a bit of time with DeBeers, Hall has improved to the point where many people consider him the top man in the AWA.

SAM HOUSTON 9,115 votes



Second runner-up: Sam Houston's rise to the top in the Central States area, plus the tremendous respect he enjoys from NWA fans everywhere, says a lot about how far this 21-year-old has come. The man many people call the next Barry Windham has made steady, although not spectacular, progress during 1986. He could break out at any time.

WENDELL COOLEY 7,285 votes



Third runner-up: From nowhere to Southeast champion to Alabama champion and a serious contender for Ric Flair's NWA World title, Wendell Cooley has come a long way in 1986. Cooley has been in the sport for only three years, but has improved so much that at the current rate he could be a dominant force in the NWA by 1988. Not bad for an ex-plumber!

VOTES FOR OTHERS (23,583)

Some other top vote-getters who did not capture a runner-up spot include Nikita Koloff, Lance Von Erch, Arn Anderson, Dan Spivey, Steve Williams, and Rick Morton.

Achievement '86

MANAGER OF THE YEAR

THIS WAS THE year the wrestling world paid homage to the brilliance of Capt. Lou Albano.

There are many people who say that Albano had very little to do with The British Bulldogs winning the WWF World tag team title, but these are the hard facts: The Bulldogs are second runner-up for Tag Team of the Year, Albano, for the third time since 1974, has been named Manager of the Year.

Albano is the legend and The British Bulldogs are the beneficiaries of his genius. In his amazing career, Albano has managed 13 different teams to 16 WWF World tag titles. People will still remember Albano long after they have forgotten the names of those teams.

The Captain received 13,591 votes to become the first man to earn this honor three times. He won it in 1974 and 1981, and that in itself is a tribute to the man's longevity. The game has

LOU ALBANO 13,591 votes



changed a lot in the past 13 years, and Albano is one of the primary reasons it has.

"Albano is a trend-setter; he's always one step ahead of everybody

else," wrote Janet Dale of Washington, D.C. "He was responsible for bringing the Bulldogs the title when they couldn't win it before. If you compiled Albano's won-lost record for 1986, it would be amazing."

Lou Albano is amazing. He has left his mark on professional wrestling.

PAST WINNERS

1985: Jim Cornette
1984: Paul Ellering
1983: James J. Dillon
1982: James J. Dillon
1981: Capt. Lou Albano
1980: Sir Oliver Humperdink
1979: Arnold Skaaland
1978: Arnold Skaaland
1977: The Grand Wizard
1976: Bobby Heenan
1975: George "Crybaby" Cannon
1974: Capt. Lou Albano
1973: The Grand Wizard
1972: Bobby Heenan

RUNNERS-UP

PAUL ELLERING 11,911 votes



First runner-up: New respect for Paul Ellering? Well, Ellering won this award in 1984, but last year dropped 5,000 votes and slipped to second runner-up. This year his vote tally increased by nearly 2,000 as he climbed to the first runner-up spot. The reason? "He's kept The Road Warriors winners for a long time," wrote Jeremy Wall of Philadelphia. "That's impressive."

ELIZABETH 11,419 votes



Second runner-up: She's obviously not just another pretty face. The excruciatingly beautiful manager of WWF Intercontinental champion Randy Savage was probably the biggest surprise in the Achievement '86 voting. She's received more respect from the fans than she has from the often brutal Savage. Next year, she'll try to become the first woman to receive this honor.

JIM CORNETTE 10,981 votes



Third runner-up: Despite the lack of hard evidence, many feel that Cornette's win in this category last year was due to late votes sent by his mother (his margin of victory in 1985 was a mere 66 votes). This year—with Cornette's horrible attack on Baby Doll, his matches against her at The Great American Bash, the fact that he cost The Midnight Express the NWA tag belts—it's surprising he finished in the running at all.

VOTES FOR OTHERS (17,935)

Some of the top vote-getters who did not capture a runner-up spot include Bobby Heenan, JJ Dillon, Gary Hart, Jimmy Hart, Percy Pringle, and J.D. Costello.

FEUD OF THE YEAR

THE NUMBERS DON'T quite tell the story when it comes to the incredible feud between Hulk Hogan and Paul Orndorff. The war attracted 12,738 votes, the lowest winning total in any category, and beat the Ric Flair-Dusty Rhodes feud by only 826 votes, the smallest winning margin in any category.

The number that really counts is 70,000—the attendance at Toronto's Exhibition Stadium for an August 28 match between Hogan and Orndorff. That live gate count set an all-time record for the sport, and told all that needs to be known about the amount of heat the Hogan-Orndorff feud has generated.

When we set out the criteria for this new category, we explained that your choice "should be that one continuing

HULK HOGAN VS. PAUL ORNDORFF 12,738 votes



series of battles that you feel has dominated the careers of the participants to the exclusion of all other activities." Prior to this feud, Hogan defended his title about once a week; he met Orndorff at least 13 times in October alone, and Orndorff has concentrated all his energy on beating and embarrassing Hogan.

"The way these guys were once such good friends and then all of a sudden turned on each other was remarkable," wrote Nelson Barrett of New York City. "This feud really brought out the best in both men. I've never seen Hogan wrestle as well as he has against Orndorff, and Orndorff has really fought hard. It's obvious that they harbor incredible hatred for one another. This feud could be going even stronger at this time next year."

RUNNERS-UP

RIC FLAIR VS. DUSTY RHODES 11,912 votes



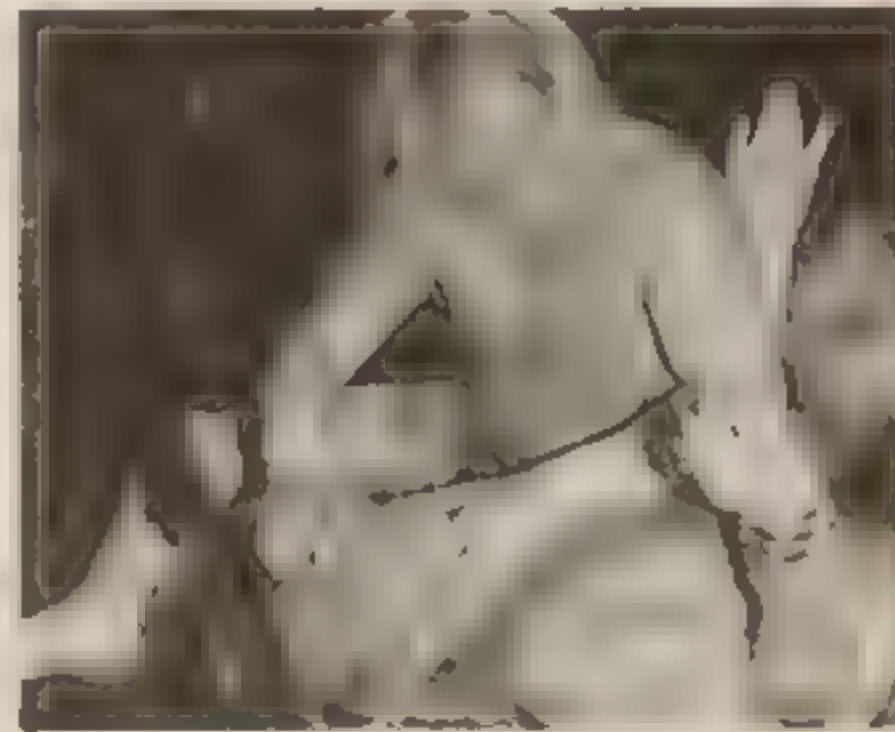
First runner-up: The feud that never seems to end reached its apex in 1986. Dusty Rhodes scored a stunning upset victory over Ric Flair for the NWA World title on June 29, 1986, but lost the belt back two weeks later. During this period, the two wrestlers developed increased respect and hatred for one another. The war is still burning hot.

THE SHEEPHERDERS VS. THE FANTASTICS 10,271 votes



Second runner-up: The Sheepherders are gone from the UWF, but their vicious battles with The Fantastics shocked audiences everywhere, and their matches were banned from television. The teams exchanged the UWF tag team belts before The Sheepherders fled to Florida in the summer, leaving a trail of violence and bloodshed in their wake.

MIDNIGHT EXPRESS VS. ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS 9,184 votes



Third runner-up: First the Rock 'n' Rolls had the title. Then the Midnights had the title. Then the Rock 'n' Rolls had the title. That's the way it was throughout 1986 as the two teams engaged in a year-long battle for the belts. "If the Midnights against the Rock 'n' Rolls was the only match on the card, I'd go," wrote Jeff Snyder of Philadelphia.

VOTES FOR OTHERS (20,913)

Some of the top vote-getting feuds that did not capture a runner up spot include Hulk Hogan vs. Randy Savage, Nikita Koloff vs. Magnum T.A., Jake Roberts vs. Rick Steamboat, Col. DeBeers vs. Scott Hall, Ron Bass vs. Barry Windham, and Paul Jones vs. Jimmy Valiant.

Achievement '86

MOST POPULAR WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

WHO COULD HAVE guessed it? The early returns clearly indicated that Hulk Hogan would repeat as Most Popular Wrestler of the Year, and his toughest competition would come from Rick Morton of The Rock 'n' Roll Express.

With two weeks to go in the voting, Hogan had 9,236 votes and Morton had 8,763 votes. It was no surprise that Roddy Piper was sitting near the bottom of the heap with less than 600 ballots bearing his name.

The late voting was simply overwhelming. On one day alone we received 8,000 ballots. Two weeks later, when the votes were all counted, the editors were stunned. In a comeback rivaling the New York Mets' reversal in the sixth game of the World Series, Roddy Piper picked up over 13,000 votes in 14 days to go from 1985's Most Hated Wrestler to 1986's Most Popular Wrestler of the Year.

RODDY PIPER 13,814 votes



It is unprecedented.

Incredibly, the late returns were so decisive that the final tally wasn't very close. Piper won by 903 votes over Hogan and 1,332 over Morton. But why did it take this late rush for Piper to land the honors?

"You never know with a guy like Piper," wrote Jennifer Heftler of Toron-

to. "One day the man is acting one way, and the next day he's totally different. I really think Piper has changed, though. He's starting to like hearing the cheers of the fans and he's fighting a battle that you have to agree with. I was protecting my emotions at first, but now he's got me."

PAST WINNERS

- 1985: Hulk Hogan
- 1984: Kerry Von Erch
- 1983: Jimmy Snuka
- 1982: Andre the Giant
- 1981: Tommy Rich
- 1980: Mr. Wrestling II
- 1979: Dusty Rhodes
- 1978: Dusty Rhodes
- 1977: Andre the Giant
- 1976: Wahoo McDaniel
- 1975: Mil Mascaras
- 1974: Billy Robinson
- 1973: Chief Jay Strongbow
- 1972: Jack Brisco/Fred Curry (tie)

RUNNERS-UP

HULK HOGAN 12,911 votes



First runner-up: The man was a lock. Hulk Hogan spent almost the entire year on top of the Most Popular ratings, and his feud with Paul Orndorff seemed to guarantee that he would repeat. Although the Hulkster received 4,000 fewer votes than last year, his popularity certainly hasn't waned. Hogan is still the most visible figure in the sport. Apparently, Piper split the WWF votes.

RICK MORTON 12,482 votes



Second runner-up: Morton is no more popular than his tag team partner, Robert Gibson, but obviously his single feud with Ric Flair contributed greatly to his higher vote total. Morton was chosen "Wrestling's Sexiest Superstar" by the readers of Wrestling Superstars, and it's no surprise that 76 percent of the votes he received in this poll were cast by women.

NIKITA KOLOFF 9,271 votes



Third runner-up: This is not a hallucination. Repeat: Your eyes are not deceiving you. Nikita Koloff, The Russian Nightmare, one of the most hated men in wrestling, moved to the side of the injured Magnum T.A. and Dusty Rhodes and suddenly claimed a spot in the hearts of the fans. The United States champion is a United States champion.

VOTES FOR OTHERS (17,052)

Some of the top vote-getters who did not capture a runner-up spot include Magnum T.A., Hacksaw Duggan, Robert Gibson, Rick Steamboat, Terry Taylor, and Dusty Rhodes.

Achievement '86

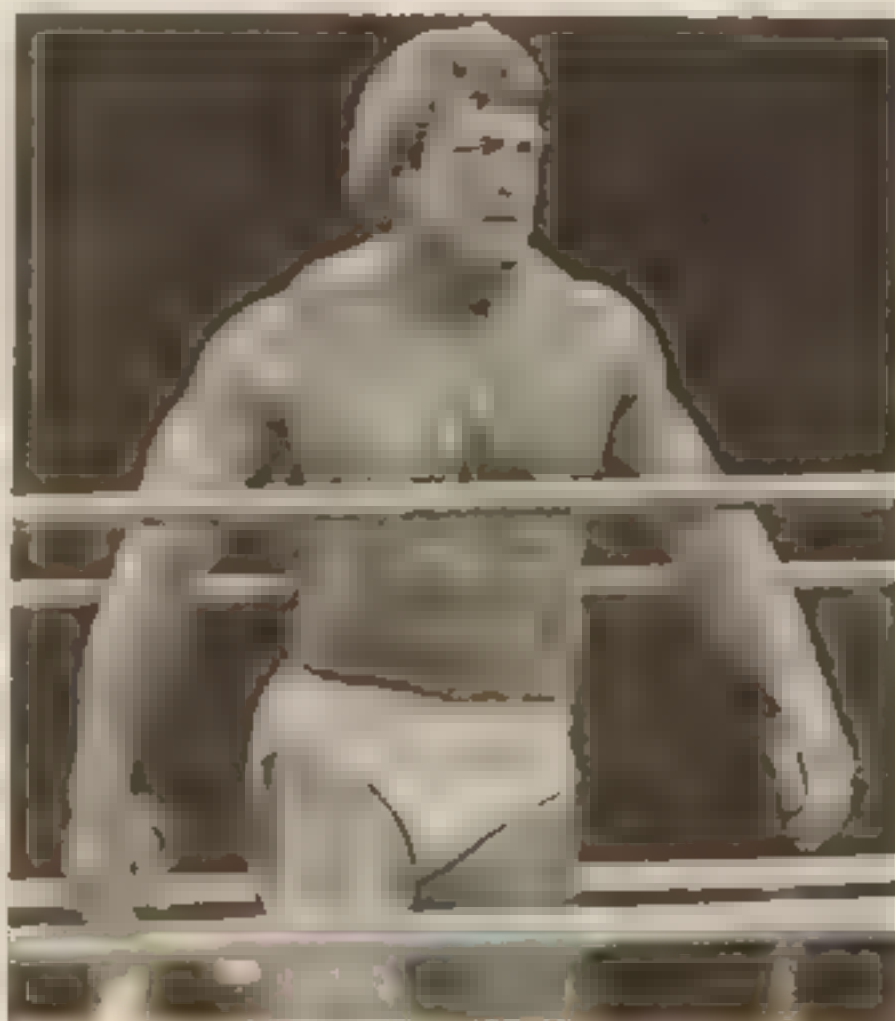
MOST HATED WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

BY ATTACKING HULK Hogan and turning his back on the fans, Paul Orndorff committed the ultimate sin. In the minds of the fans, there's no doubt about it: Orndorff is the Most Hated Wrestler of the Year—by a very wide margin.

Orndorff received 18,582 votes in this category, 5,001 more than Ric Flair. This represented the widest margin of victory in the Achievement '86 voting and speaks volumes about why Hogan-Orndorff was also the Feud of the Year. As much as people love Hogan, they hate the turncoat Orndorff. For the second straight year (Roddy Piper won this award in 1985), an enemy of Hogan's has taken Most Hated honors.

Say what you will about Mr. Wonderful. He's a traitor, that's for sure, and his attack on Hogan was vicious and premeditated. But the fact is that since the incident, Orndorff's career has been revitalized. Being friends with Hogan was good only for his

**PAUL
ORNDORFF**
18,582 votes



popularity. On the other side of the fence, Orndorff is now able to take dead aim at the WWF World title.

So tell it to the fans. "Orndorff's not my friend if all he cares about is Hogan's title," wrote Tracy Scott of Atlantic City, New Jersey. "He made a fool of Hogan and of all us fans who love him and called him 'Mr. Wonderful.' We thought he liked hearing us cheer him, but it was all a hoax. I was badly hurt when Orndorff attacked Hulk, and I still haven't gotten over it. In my mind, Orndorff has a long way to go as a human being."

PAST WINNERS

1985: Roddy Piper
1984: Roddy Piper
1983: Greg Valentine
1982: Ted DiBiase
1981: Ken Patera
1980: Larry Zbyszko
1979: Greg Valentine
1978: Ric Flair
1977: Ken Patera
1976: Stan Hansen
1975: Greg Valentine
1974: The Great Mephisto
1973: Superstar Graham
1972: The Sheik

RUNNERS-UP

RIC FLAIR
13,581 votes



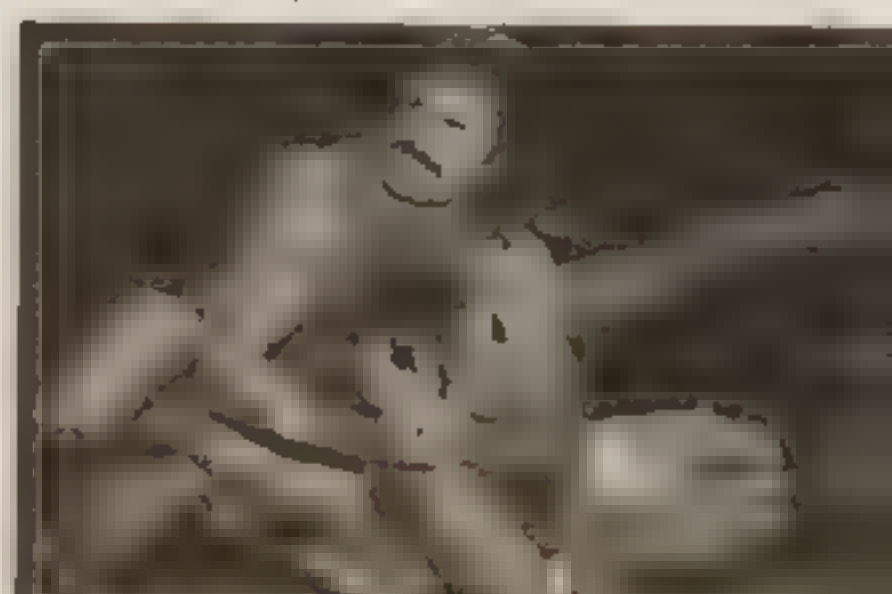
First runner-up: In 1986, Ric Flair defended his NWA World title against Dusty Rhodes, Robert Gibson, Rick Morton, Road Warriors Animal and Hawk, Nikita Koloff, Magnum T.A., and Lex Luger. If the fans love him, Flair's probably wrestled him. That record of title defenses, his "habit" of getting disqualified, and his association with The Four Horsemen contributed to his high finish in this category.

COL. DeBEERS
10,388 votes



Second runner-up: Is there a reason to like this man? Col. DeBeers' pro-apartheid views and racist remarks infuriate any thinking human being. The South African native seems more intent on expounding his racist views than on winning wrestling matches. He called Scott Hall "a drug addict," and refused to wrestle Jimmy Snuka "because he's black." Disgusting!

RICK RUDE
8,239 votes



Third runner-up: Any man who spends most of the year beating up on Von Erich can't be very popular. Add to this a swagging, self-aggrandizing attitude and you come up with Rick Rude, a man who doesn't know the meaning of respect for others. Now that Rude has transferred from World Class to the NWA, his hatred quotient is sure to rise.

VOTES FOR OTHERS (14,024)

Some of the top vote-getters who did not capture a runner-up spot include: Randy Savage, Tully Blanchard, Nikita Koloff, Stan Hansen, Adnan Adonis, and Michael Hayes.

Achievement '86

MATCH OF THE YEAR

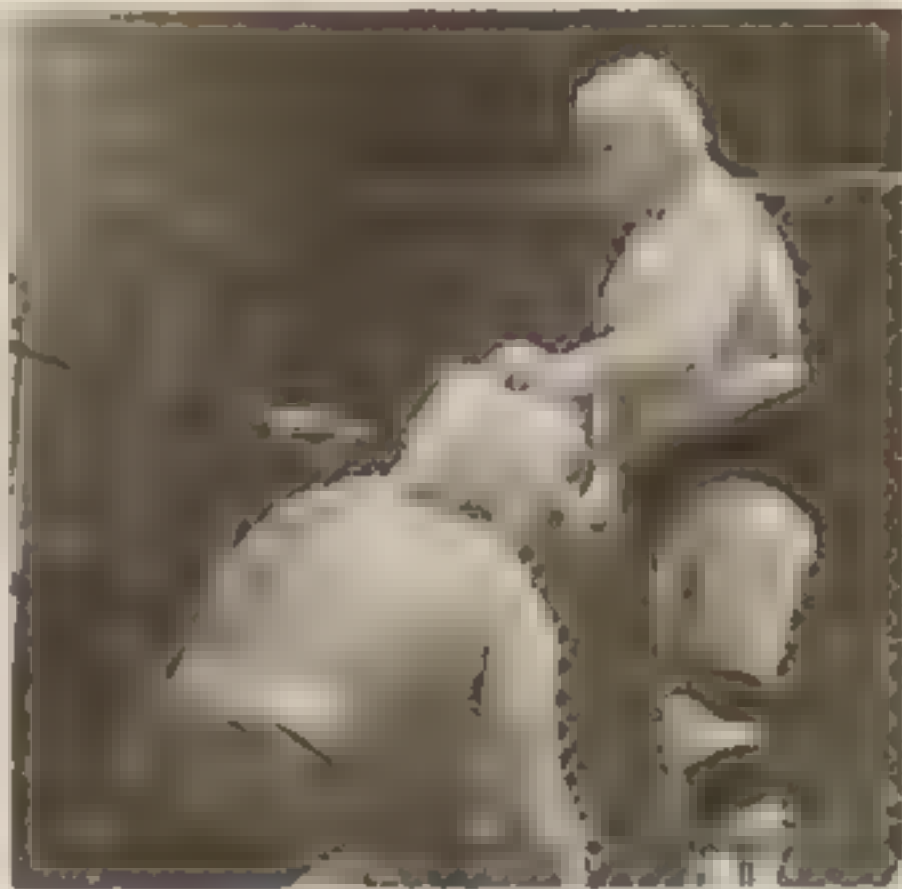
THE UPSET OF the year turned out to be the Match of the Year. A sellout crowd packed the Greensboro Coliseum on July 26 to see NWA World champion Ric Flair battle Dusty Rhodes at the 13th card of The Great American Bash series. What they saw they'll never forget.

Flair, coming off an intense schedule of title defenses against the best challengers in the NWA, was drained coming into the match. Rhodes, better rested but flustered by his recent inability to win the title, wrestled the match of his life. After 22 minutes in a steel cage, both men were exhausted.

In the 23rd minute, Rhodes executed a well-planned series of elbow-smashes that further weakened Flair, then took the pin. Afterward, the usually cocky Flair conceded that Rhodes had been the better man on this night and deserved to win.

The Flair-Rhodes match was an easy win for Match of the Year, enjoying a 2,526 vote margin over the first runner-up. For the third time in the past four

DUSTY RHODES vs. RIC FLAIR 14,584 votes



years, Flair had the honor of being part of the award-winning match.

"Nothing all year matched this for sheer excitement and shock value,"

wrote Mike Lewis of Greensboro. "This was wrestling as it should be. Two great champions fighting it out."

PAST WINNERS

- 1985: Hulk Hogan & Mr. T vs. Roddy Piper & Paul Orndorff (WrestleMania I)
- 1984: Kerry Von Erch vs. Ric Flair (Von Erch captures NWA World title)
- 1983: Harley Race vs. Ric Flair (Race wins seventh NWA World title)
- 1982: Bob Backlund vs. Jimmy Snuka (cage match)
- 1981: Andre the Giant vs. Killer Khan
- 1980: Bruno Sammartino vs. Larry Zbyszko (cage match)
- 1979: Dusty Rhodes vs. Harley Race (Rhodes wins NWA World title)
- 1978: Bob Backlund vs. Superstar Graham (Backlund wins WWF World title)
- 1977: Superstar Graham vs. Bruno Sammartino (Graham wins WWF title)
- 1976: Bruno Sammartino vs. Stan Hansen (cage match)
- 1975: Bruno Sammartino vs. Spiros Anion
- 1974: Dory Funk Jr. vs. Jack Brisco
- 1973: Harley Race vs. Dory Funk Jr. (Race wins first NWA World title)
- 1972: Bruno Sammartino wins 22-man Los Angeles battle royal

RUNNERS-UP

BULLDOGS vs. VALENTINE & BEEFCAKE 12,058 votes



First runner-up: The British Bulldogs' victory over Greg Valentine and Brutus Beefcake at Chicago's Rosemont Horizon stood out as the classic of WrestleMania 2 on April 7. The Bulldogs won their first WWF World tag team title in a bout that distinguished itself as the only title change of the three-site extravaganza.

ROAD WARRIORS vs. GARVIN & T.A. 10,350 votes



Second runner-up: Offer \$1 million in prize money and you're sure to draw the attention of the sport's top tag teams. The Road Warriors defeated the team of Magnum T.A. and Ronnie Garvin in the final of the first Jim Crockett Sr. Memorial Cup tag team tournament on April 18 at The Superdome in an unforgettable bout.

HULK HOGAN vs. PAUL ORNDORFF 10,122 votes



Third runner-up: The match was no more special than the other bouts pitting archrivals Hulk Hogan and Paul Orndorff. But the setting was historic: 70,000 fans jammed into Toronto's Exhibition Stadium on August 28, establishing an all-time wrestling attendance record. The result: Hogan defeated Orndorff by disqualification.

VOTES FOR OTHERS (16,419)

Some of the top vote-getting matches that did not capture a runner-up spot include Hulk Hogan's steel cage match victory over King Kong Bundy at WrestleMania 2, Ric Flair's August 9 victory over Dusty Rhodes for the NWA World title in St. Louis; Randy Savage's Intercontinental title victory over Tito Santana on February 8 in Boston, and The Midnight Express' February 2 win over The Rock 'n' Roll Express in Atlanta for the NWA World tag team belts.

Achievement '86

TAG TEAM OF THE YEAR

THE DYNASTY HAS come to an end. The Rock 'n' Roll Express, NWA World tag team champions for much of 1986, have broken The Road Warriors' three-year stranglehold on the Tag Team of the Year award.

This was truly the year of Rick Morton and Robert Gibson. Their popularity skyrocketed during the early half of 1986, and it seemed like manifest destiny that they would regain the NWA belts that they lost to The Midnight Express in February. On August 16, 1986, in Philadelphia, the Rock 'n' Rolls defeated the Midnight Express in a best-of-three-falls match. In doing so, they virtually clinched year-end honors.

The Rock 'n' Rolls finished a distant also-ran to The Road Warriors in 1985, but this year they received 15,921 votes—1,207 better than Hawk and Animal. And if there was an award for Most Popular Tag Team of the Year, they would have pinned down that honor, too.

ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS 15,921 votes



"They're everything you could want in a tag team," wrote Sheryl Manis of Pittsburgh. "Ricky and Robert are tal-

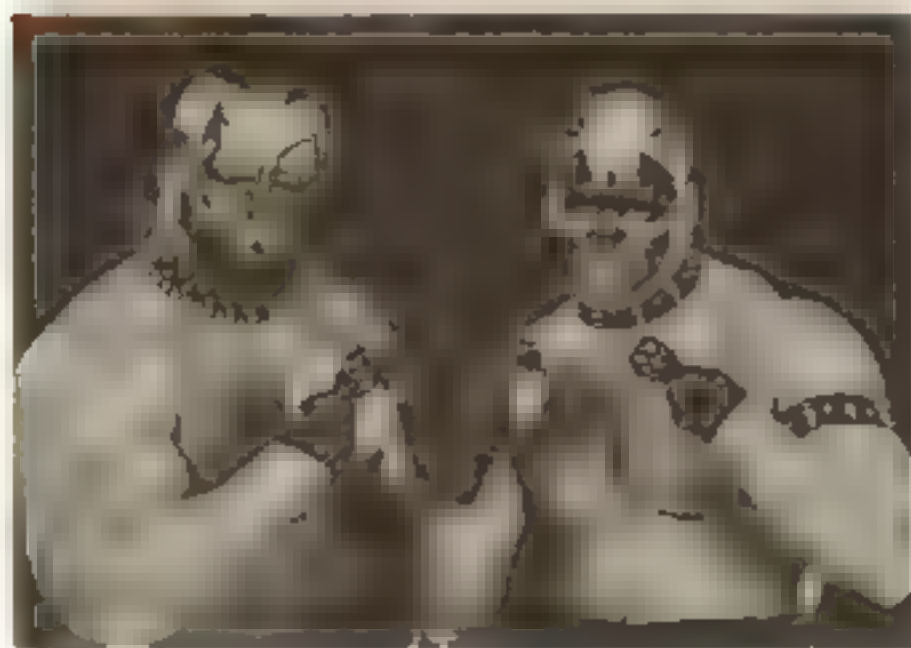
ented, strong, aggressive, great strategists—and they're cute. The great thing is that they do all of this without a manager. The Warriors have Paul Ellering and the Midnight Express have Jim Cornette, but Ricky and Robert do it on their own. I think the experience of having the belts is only going to make them tougher to beat in the long run. Rock 'n' Roll is here to stay!"

PAST WINNERS

1985: The Road Warriors
1984: The Road Warriors
1983: The Road Warriors
1982: Greg Gagne & Jim Brunzell
1981: The Fabulous Freebirds
1980: Jimmy Snuka & Ray Stevens
1979: Ivan Putski & Tito Santana
1978: Rick Steamboat & Paul Jones
1977: Gene & Ole Anderson
1976: The Executioners
1975: Gene & Ole Anderson
1974: Jimmy & Johnny Valiant
1973: Nick Bockwinkel & Ray Stevens
1972: Bruiser & Crusher

RUNNERS-UP

ROAD WARRIORS 14,714 votes



First runners-up: The mighty haven't fallen too far. Animal and Hawk compiled an outstanding won-loss record in 1986, but the NWA World tag team title remained elusive. In the final analysis, the amount of time they spent in Japan and their infrequent title shots cost the Warriors a chance at picking up the honors for the fourth straight year.

BRITISH BULLDOGS 13,166 votes



Second runners-up: After taking the third runner-up spot last year, Davey Boy Smith and Dynamite Kid edged closer to the top in 1986, picking up nearly 4,500 votes in doing so. The Bulldogs captured the WWF World tag team title from Greg Valentine and Brutus Beefcake at WrestleMania 2 and, despite frequent injuries, have faithfully defended the belts ever since.

MIDNIGHT ROCKERS 7,173 votes



Third runners-up: Marty Jannetty and Shawn Michaels were a distant third runner-up; the margin between second and third was the largest in the Achievement '86 voting. Their high finish was indeed a surprise considering they first came on the scene in 1986 and were often accused of capitalizing on the success of The Midnight Express and The Rock 'n' Roll Express.

VOTES FOR OTHERS (14,012)

Some of the other top vote-getters who did not capture a runners-up spot include: The Fantastics, The Midnight Express, Ted DiBiase & Steve Williams, Ole & Arn Anderson, Brutus Beefcake & Greg Valentine, and The Sheepherders.

Achievement '86

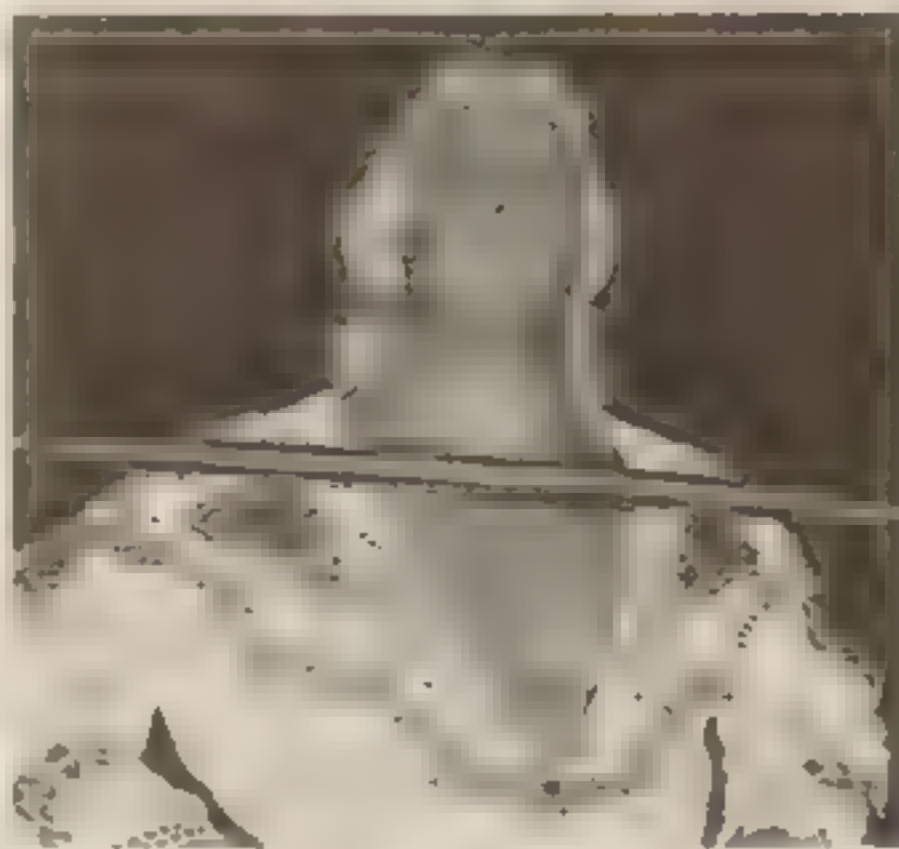
WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

RIC FLAIR HAS taken control. The NWA engraved Flair's name on a plate on the World championship belt, and the editors of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* might as well do the same with this award. For the third straight year, and fourth since 1981, Flair has been voted Wrestler of the Year.

Last year, Flair edged Hulk Hogan by approximately 800 votes. The year before, his margin of victory was 224 votes. But this time, Flair established clear-cut dominance over the competition. His 19,291 votes was an Achievement '86 high, and his margin of victory over Hogan ballooned to 4,052 votes. Clearly, the NWA World champion is moving ahead of the field.

He did this despite having a difficult year. Flair was NWA World champion for all of 1985, but this year he had to fight back to regain his title two weeks after losing it to Dusty Rhodes on July 29, 1986, in Greensboro, North Caroli-

RIC FLAIR 19,291 votes



na. The fact that he was able to recover and capture his fourth NWA World championship impressed the voters more than anything else.

"We all know it's one thing to have a title, but to lose it and then have the

courage to come back and regain it, that's the true mark of a champion," wrote Jason Maronne of Charlotte, North Carolina. "One day, all the people who hate Flair are going to look back and realize what a great champion he was. Then, and only then, will they realize what they missed."

PAST WINNERS

1985: Ric Flair
1984: Ric Flair
1983: Harley Race
1982: Bob Backlund
1981: Ric Flair
1980: Bob Backlund
1979: Harley Race
1978: Dusty Rhodes
1977: Dusty Rhodes
1976: Terry Funk
1975: Mr. Wrestling II
1974: Bruno Sammartino
1973: Jack Brisco
1972: Pedro Morales

RUNNERS-UP

HULK HOGAN 15,239 votes



First runner-up: It's hard to criticize anybody who has held the WWF World championship for almost three years, and Hogan deserves credit for increasing his number of title defenses lately. His 15,239 votes are the most for any first runner-up, but it has become clear to the fans that Hogan is simply a notch below Flair. He's doomed to bridesmaid status.

RANDY SAVAGE 8,234 votes



Second runner-up: The WWF Intercontinental champion maintained a rugged work schedule in 1986 and solidified his standing in the WWF as second only to Hogan. Savage was scheduled to wrestle fellow rule-breaker Jake Roberts in November, and if this is a sign of things to come, he might finally get the respect he deserves.

NIKITA KOLOFF 7,915 votes



Third runner-up: From second runner-up for Most Improved in 1985 to third runner-up for Wrestler of the Year in 1986, The Russian Nightmare has certainly come a long way since his 1984 debut. In 1986 he won the U.S. title in an incredible summer-long duel with Magnum T.A., and unified the U.S. and National titles with a victory over Wahoo McDaniel.

VOTES FOR OTHERS (14,943)

Some of the top vote-getters who did not capture a runner-up spot include Magnum T.A., Roddy Piper, Dusty Rhodes, Bruiser Brody, Hacksaw Duggan, and Chris Adams.

Achievement '86

EDITORS' AWARD

VERNE GAGNE

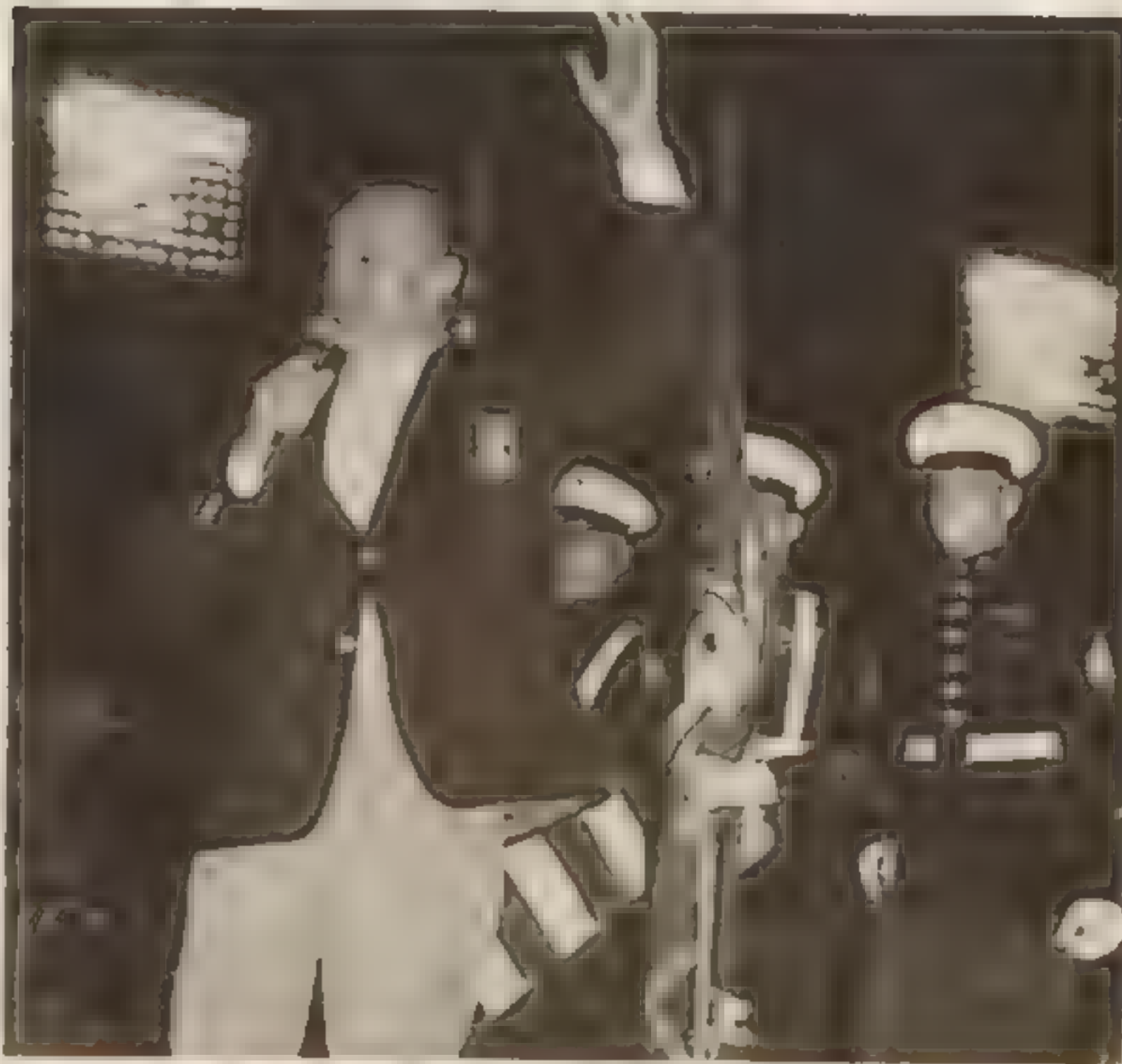
AS A CHAMPION, teacher, and executive, few men have done more for our sport than Verne Gagne. Nine times AWA World heavy-weight champion. Founder of The Verne Gagne Wrestling School. Executive Producer of *AWA Championship Wrestling*. Attendance may be down in the AWA, but the man's legacy lives on.

The purpose of the *PWI* "Editors' Award" is to honor a person in professional wrestling who has had a profound and lasting influence on the sport, and "profound" is certainly the operative word when talking about Verne Gagne. One has only to look to the past to come up with the reasons why this wrestling legend is the winner of the 1986 *PWI* "Editors' Award."

Here are 13 good reasons: Ric Flair, Larry Hennig, Greg Gagne, Baron Von Raschke, Jim Brunzell, The Iron Sheik, Sgt. Slaughter, Buddy Rose, Scott Irwin, Blackjack Mulligan, Blackjack Lanza, Rick Steamboat, and Jimmy Snuka. All discovered and trained by Verne Gagne; all graduates of his wrestling school.

Without a doubt, The Verne Gagne Wrestling School is the most famous in the entire world. Its graduates are the Rhodes Scholars of wrestling. To be successful, one has to pass under the scrutiny of Gagne and Brad Rheingans, a superlative amateur grappler and solid pro. If they don't think a man is good enough to make it in the pros, he doesn't make it through the school. And if they think a man is good enough to graduate, you can almost guarantee that he'll be a star.

Here are nine more reasons: From 1960 to 1981, Verne Gagne was AWA World champion an unprecedented nine times. His longest title reign was seven years, three months, the longest anyone has ever held the AWA belt. He was voted "Best Scientific Wrestler" of the past 25



PAST WINNERS

1985: Dan Shocket
1984: David Von Erch

1983: The Grand Wizard
1982: Lou Thesz
1981: Bruno Sammartino

years by the wrestling media, and there are few that will deny that he is the greatest scientific wrestler of all time.

But his current position in wrestling is as a man determined to dig in and hold the line. As the sport changes around him, Verne Gagne refuses to budge. He looks at the WWF and sees animals, transvestites, Elvis Presley impersonators, and a general circus atmosphere. And he sees the WWF drawing record crowds. He looks at the NWA and sees sex symbols, wild brawlers, and some very strange feuds. And he sees the NWA growing.

Yet Verne Gagne insists that it's all a passing fad. He knows in

his heart the sport's overexposure on television, the trend away from basic wrestling skills and matches, and all the flashy gimmicks, will spell doom for his competition. While the parade passes by, Verne Gagne is secure in the knowledge that his way is the best way and that you have to go through the bad to appreciate the good.

Gagne could be right. The different federations are threatening to become clones of one another. When that happens, the AWA will be the alternative people are looking for. Suddenly, the AWA's traditional style of scientific wrestling and no-nonsense matches will become non-traditional, just like crew cuts in an age of long hair evolved into the modern look.

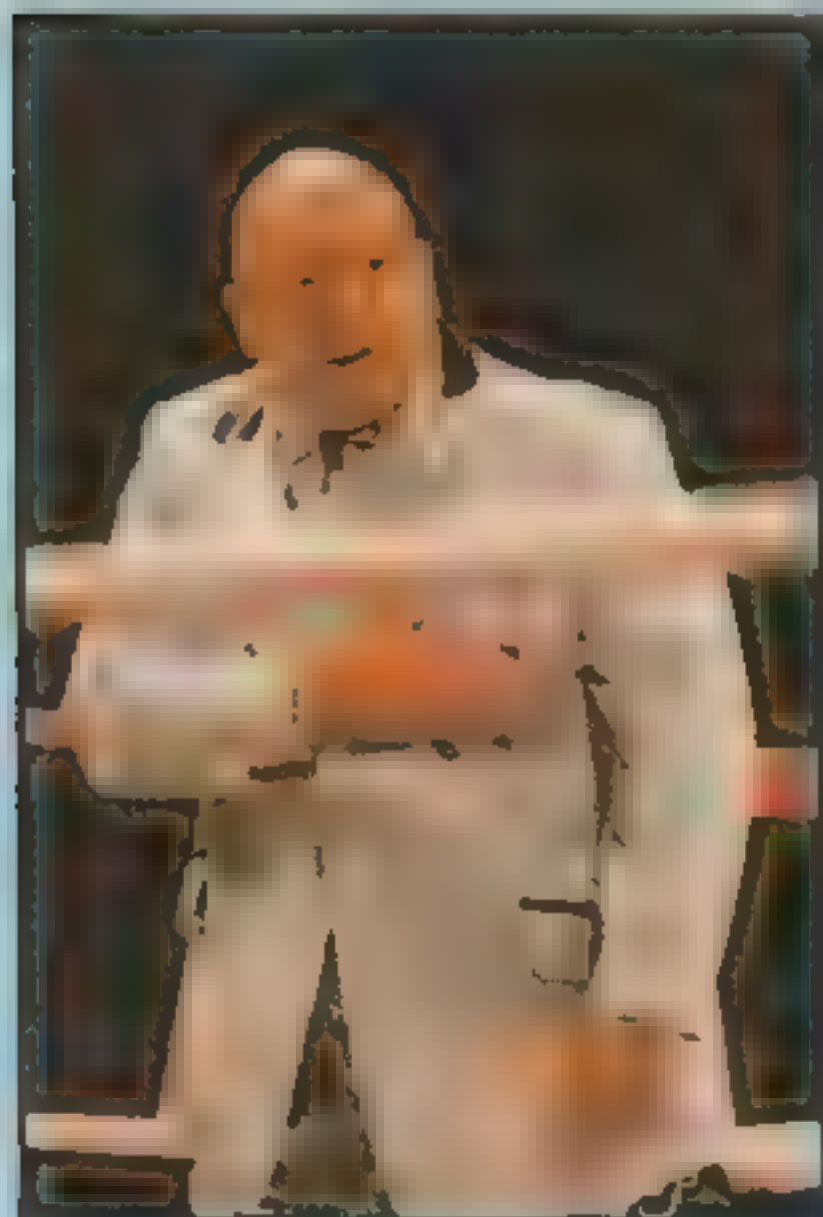
There's something to be said about a man who sticks to his ideas through thick and thin. Verne Gagne knows that he has made his mark by following his instincts. Nine-time AWA World champion. The most famous wrestling school in the world. And don't forget, when cable TV network ESPN went looking for a wrestling program, they came to the AWA and Verne Gagne.

His record still overwhelms the competition. □

YOUR UNOFFICIAL OFFICIAL AWARDS FOR 1986

A Real Man Does Wear Skirts: Roddy Piper

—Roxann Carnero, Denton, TX



All Dressed Up With No Place To Go: George "The Animal" Steele, and his involvement in tuxedo matches

—Lindsey Stangal
Massapequa Park, NY

All In The Family: Veteran grappler Stu Hart deserves an award for his six sons in the pro ranks: Brett, Bruce, Owen, Ross, Kevin, and Keith. A seventh son, Wayne, is a referee.

—Bill McKenzie, Calgary, Alberta

Announcer Most Likely To Shake Out Of His Clothes While Interviewing Rulebreakers: The AWA's Larry Nelson

—Jim Taylor, Joplin, MO

Last year we instituted the concept of "Unofficial Official Awards" for the year—unusual and outrageous award categories that you come up with and for which you choose winners. These "awards" quickly became one of the most popular features of our year-end

The March 1986 edition of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* presented 100 of your awards for 1985. This year, the volume of mail and suggested "Unofficial Official Awards" increased significantly, so we in turn have increased the number of awards in this section to 150. They're serious and silly, critical and crazy, and perhaps not always deserving. But they're always entertaining. Enjoy—you wrote them!

Announcer Of The Year: Jesse Ventura

—Garth Raymond, Groveville, NJ

Anorexic Tag Team: Sam Houston and Kendall Windham

—Marc Cole, Colora, MD

Best Attitude: Tully Blanchard

—Ed Bailey, Spokane, WA

Best Body: Lex Luger

—Carmin Warnsley, Mt. Pleasant, TX

Best Dressed: Jesse Ventura

—Dan Tromp, Milwaukee, WI

Best Finishing Maneuver: The Von Erich iron claw

—Christina and Terri Bennett
Poynette, WI

Best Foot To The Face: Bruiser Brody
—Ernest Matchan, Minneapolis, MN

Best Looking Ring Attendants: The WWF's Federettes

—Patrick Fischer, Dunkirk, NY

Best Mystery Book: AWA rulebook
—Anthony Owens, Richmond, VA



Best Newly Formed Tag Team: The Kansas Jayhawks, Dutch Mantel and Bobby Jaggers

—Jeff Murphy
Cumberland Furnace, TN

Best Pro Wrestling Illustrated Issue: December 1986, "The Great American Bash"

—Tim Bransil, Cincinnati, OH

Best Reason For Watching Wrestling: Elizabeth

—Pat Andraska, Ashland, WI

Achievement '86

Best Rock 'n' Roll Strut: Bobby Fulton
—Christy Siegnst, Shell Knob, MO

Best Sam Kinison Imitation: David Crockett
—John S. Hardin, Alexandria, VA

Best Spokesman For Vic Tanny: Dingo Warrior
—Robert Krug, Benld, IL

Best Strut: Jim Garvin
—Cheri White, Cheraw, SC



Best Tattoo: Crusher Yurkof's fireball

—John Supanich
Iron Mountain, MI

Best Wrestling Organization: UWF
—Marc McNeely, Pittsburg, KS

Biggest Chest: (tie) Missy Hyatt and Abdullah the Butcher
—Brett Schwan, Islip, NY

Biggest Waste Of Time: ESPN's televising of AWA wrestling
—Suzanne diGeorge, Metairie, LA

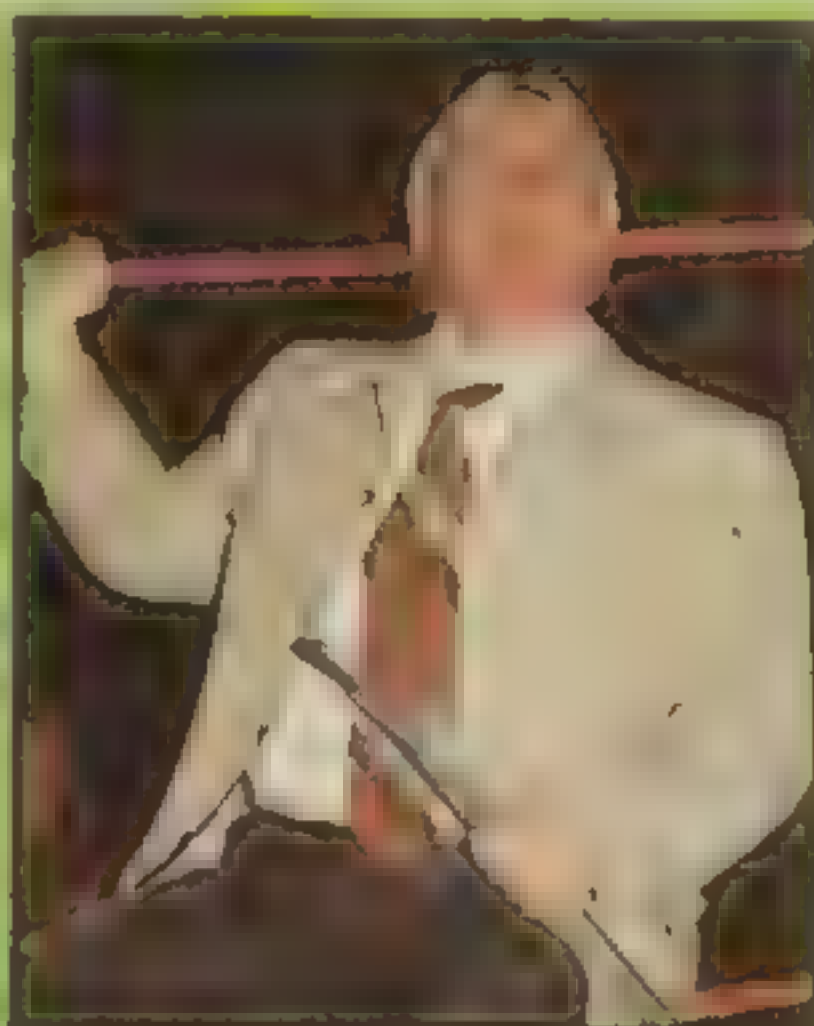
Bloodiest Canvas Award: UWF
—Cathy Housman, Harrisburg, PA

Boring Feud Of The Year: Paul Jones vs. Jimmy Valiant
—Paula Brown, Tucker, GA

Buckwheat: Slick
—John Nutter, Meadville, PA

Cabbage Patch Doll Look-alike Award: Baby Doll
—Valene Bielski, Grayling, MI

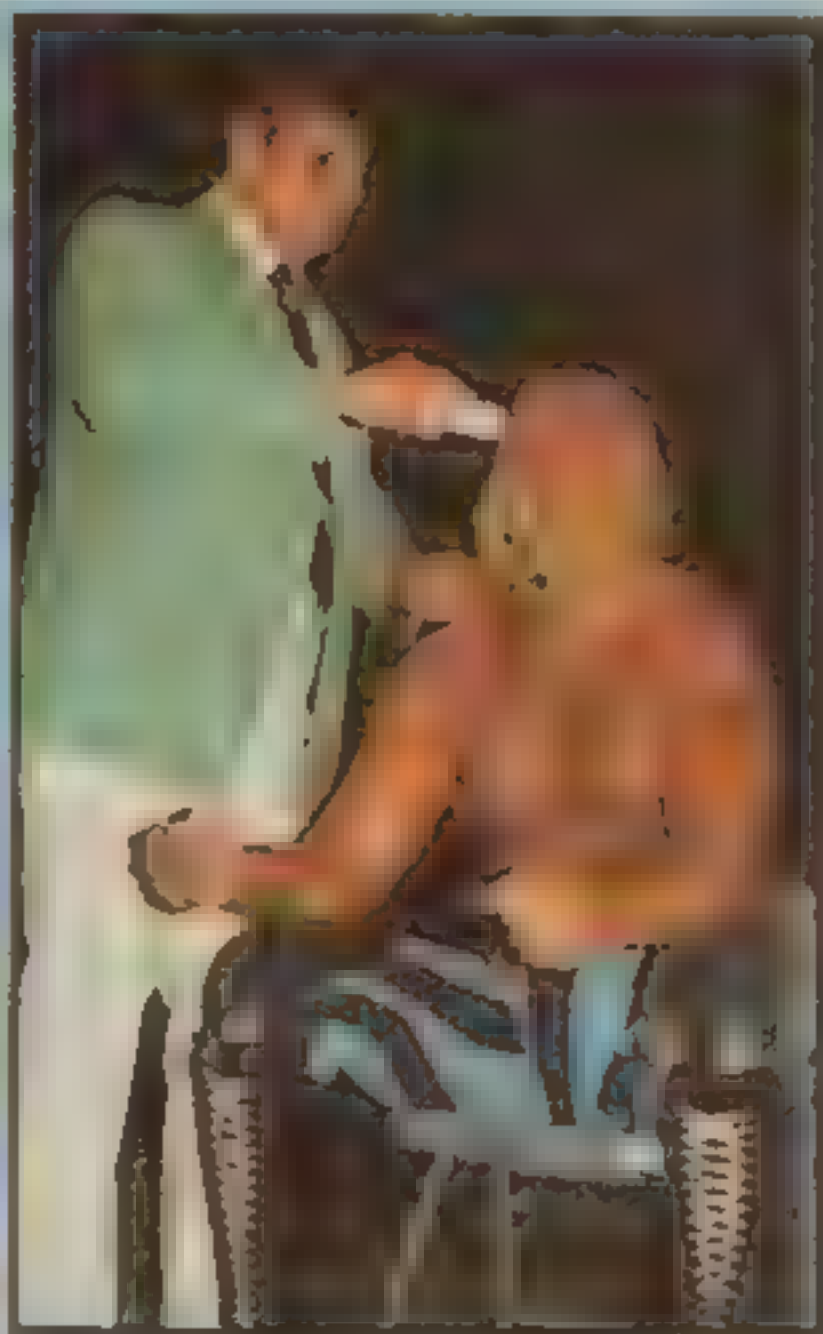
Calling Them Like They'll Never See Them: Bob Geigel and Tommy Young
—Dennis Caudle, Mocksville, NC



Capt. Kangaroo Look-alike: Percy Pringle III
Johnny R. Tibbs Jr., Kenner, LA

Copycats Of The Year: The Midnight Rockers
—Chuck Marshall, Butler, OK

Cutest Dimples: Chris Adams
—Melissa Walker, Tahlequah, OK



Dignity In The Face Of Defeat: Jimmy Valiant
—Vanessa Kincaid, Shreveport, LA

Disappointment Of The Year: World Class pulling out of the NWA
—Kevin Copeland, Abilene, TX

Dolly Parton Honorary Award: (tie) Dusty Rhodes and Adrian Adonis
—Lisa DePetro, Cyclone, PA

Dr. Jekyll And Mr. Hyde: Paul Orndorff and Roddy Piper
—Mark B. Marcell, Post Falls, ID



Fluke Of The Year: Dusty Rhodes winning the NWA World title from Ric Flair
—David S. Searles III, Atlanta, GA

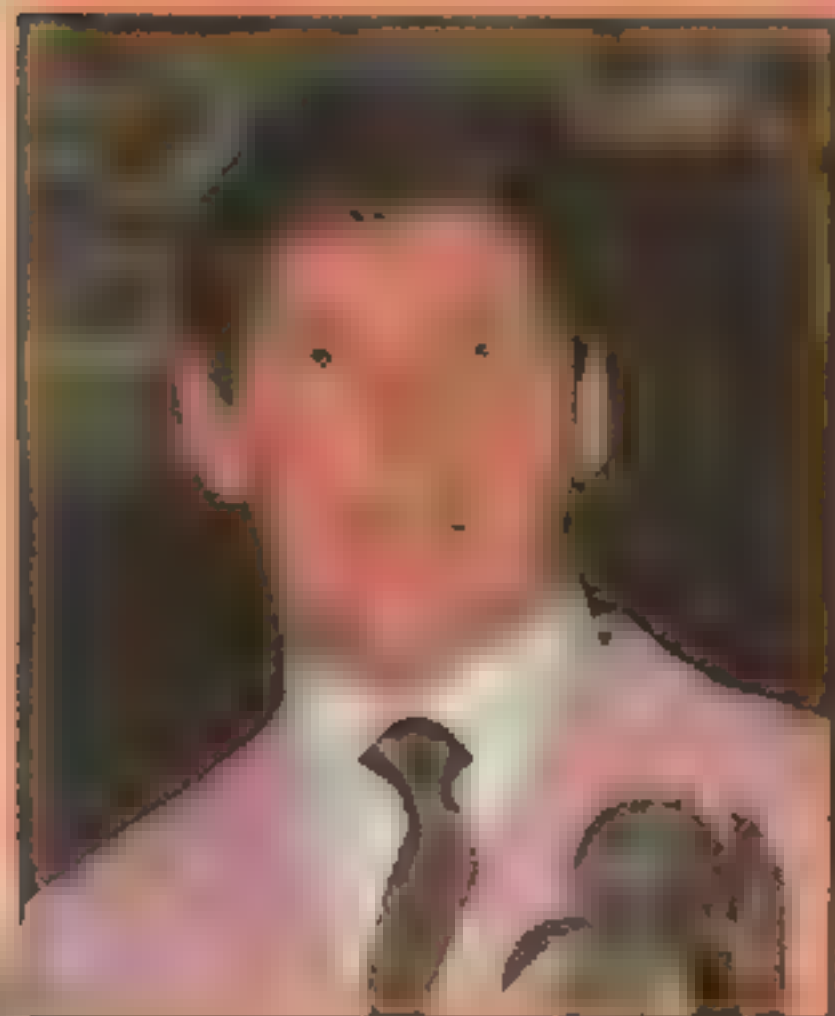
Footwear Of The Year: Jake Roberts' snakeskin boots
—Geoff Stewart, London, Ontario

Forehead That Best Resembles A Topographical Map: Abdullah The Butcher
—Doug Hummel, Benwood, WV

From Bad To Worse: Gene Okerlund replaces Vince McMahon as host of Wrestling TNT
—Matt Talley, El Segundo, CA

Funniest Thing Said By An Announcer: Gorilla Monsoon—"You can see the life literally oozing from his body"
—Marvin Hayes, Houston, TX

Genuine Humanitarianism Award:
The Fabulous Ones, for their anti-drug
campaign throughout Florida
—Jesse Erhard, North Tonawanda, NY



George Steinbrenner Of Wres-
—McMahon
—North Stonington, CT

Greatest Maneuver Of The Decade:
Terry Gordy's Bam Bam Slam
—Ted Dalton, Yukon, OK

Greatest Quote: Rick Rude—"I look
great and feel even better; I can make
a burlap sack look like a cashmere
sweater."
—Mike Porto, Saylorsburg, PA

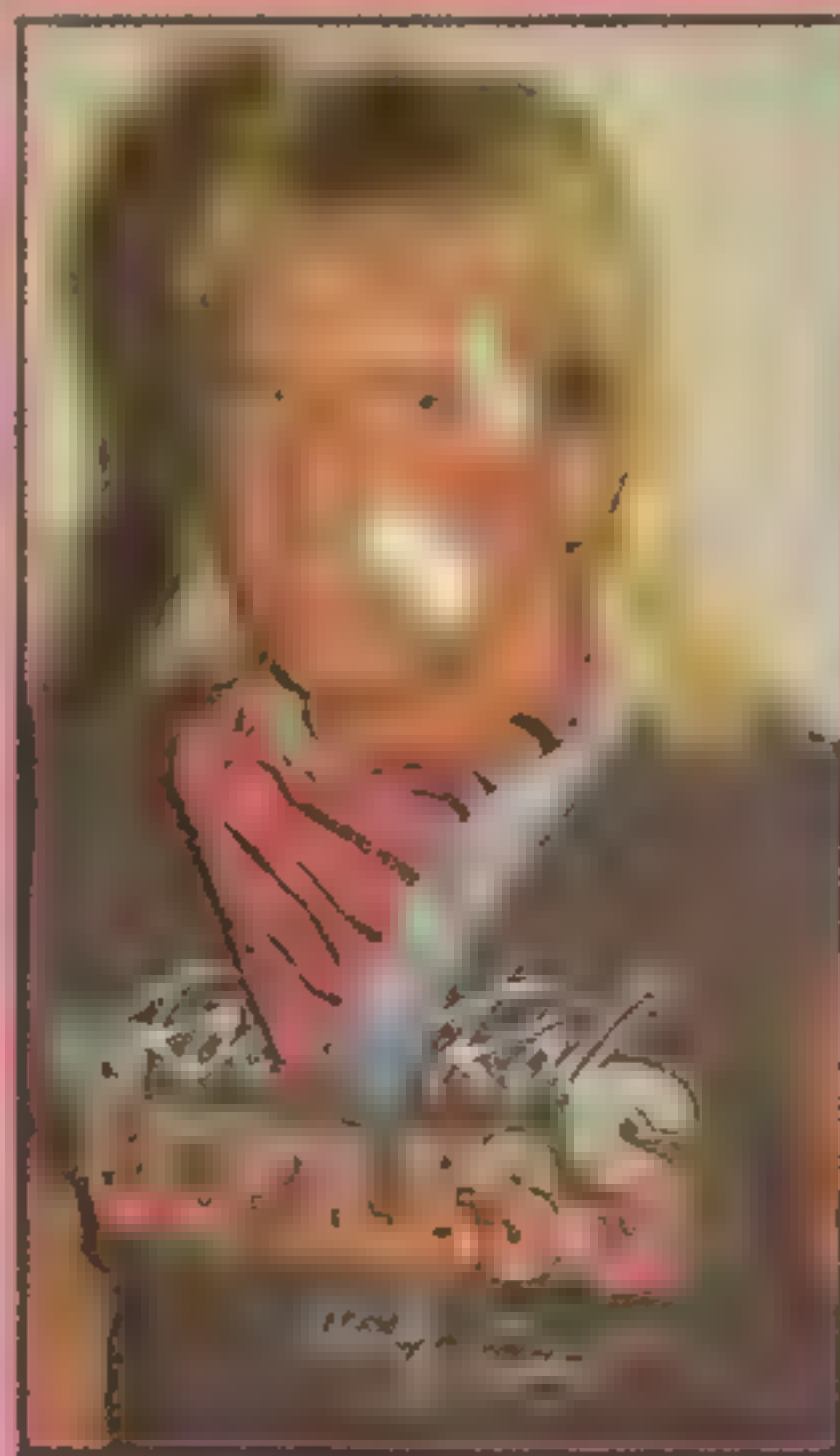
Greatest Show On Earth: (tie) Ringling
Bros. Barnum & Bailey Circus and the
WWF
—Greg Lemke, Lansing, KS

Greatest Wrestler-Manager Team:
Adnan Adonis and Jimmy Hart
—Jason Chase, Milwaukee, WI

**Hairiest And Best-Looking Chest In
The World:** Robert Gibson
—Julia Cardwell, Rural Hill, NC

He's Got More Rolls Than A Bakery:
King Kong Bundy
—Robert Kempio, Lodi, NJ

**"How Stupid Do You Think We
Are?" Trophy:** To the WWF, for think-
ing we'd believe that Giant Machine is
not Andre the Giant
—Kevin Berntson, Woodland Hills, CA



Human Scab: Rick Morton
—Michael Selby, Baltimore, MD

**"I Can Scream The Loudest During A
Match!":** (tie) Jim Ross and David
Crockett
—John L. Rodriguez, Kenedy, TX

**I Didn't Know Godzilla Was A Fe-
male:** Dump Matsumoto and Bull
Nakano
—G.P. Roth, Lima, OH

I Don't Think He Needs A Haircut:
(tie) Bill Apter and Hulk Hogan
—Darrell Gerry, Lynn, MA

"I Don't Understand The Word No":
George Steele, for continuing unwant-
ed advances toward Miss Elizabeth
—Laura Oliver, Windsor, CT

**If I Wanted To See This Crap I
Would Watch Wild Kingdom:** Jake
"The Snake" Roberts and Rick "The
Dragon" Steamboat
—Dean Deminger, Salt Lake City, UT



**Insult Our Intelligence Some
More:** The WWF, for putting Hulk
Hogan in a Machine outfit and
calling him Hulk Machine
—Keith McDowell, Brooklyn NY



Gorgeous And Purely Sexy: Mi-
chael Hayes
—Tiffany Sutton, Houston, TX

Achievement '86

Lack Of Viewer Consideration Award: To U68-WWHT in the New York/New Jersey area; they were airing wrestling Monday through Saturday, and with no advance notice removed wrestling October 4 to air a 24-hour Home Shopping Club program.

—Deborah McWilliams, Brooklyn, NY



Let Me Autograph Your Forehead: Abdullah The Butcher

—Will Andrews
Muscle Shoals, AL

Let's Move To The UWF So The WWF Will Sign Us: (three-way tie) Dick Slater, Kamala, and Koko B. Ware

—Brent Pyatt, Springdale, AR

Let's Lay Off The WWF And Hulk Hogan: Bill Apter and Pro Wrestling Illustrated magazine

—Ryan Hansen, Fremont, NE

Longest-Running Secret: The contents of Jim Cornette's tennis racket

—Carla Lee Snead, Charlestown, WV

Losers Of The Year: Randy and Bill Mulkey

—Stephen Halbrook, Fairfax, VA

Maneuver Of The Year: Randy "Macho Man" Savage's flying elbowsmash

—Bryan Vosswinkel, St. Pere, FL

Match Of the Year—1990: Lex Luger vs. Nikita Koloff

—Justin Winters, Oklahoma City, OK



Mismatch Of The Year: Stan Hansen vs. Leon White

—Justin Siegel, Huntingdon, PA

Moammar Khadafy Award For Ruining The World: Vince McMahon

—Brent Willhude, Sharpsburg, MD

Most Admirable Wrestler: Barry Windham—for telling the truth about the WWF

—Vicki Harden, Ahoskie, NC

Most Beautiful Valet: Baby Doll

—Vickie Byxbe, Greenville, MI

Most Blatant Arrogance: The World Class' reliance on and protection of the Von Erichs, and their stripping of Chris Adams of his World Class title for one no-show—the same offense is ignored when the no-show is a Von Erich!

—Victor Martinez, Lubbock, TX

Most Despicable, But Best-Looking, Turncoat Of The Year: Paul Orndorff

—Veronica Kilban, Murphy, NC

Most Devastating Double-Dropkick: Rock 'n' Roll Express

—Patricia A. Hardesty, Farmer City, IL

Most Devastating Powerslam: Steve "Dr. Death" Williams' "Oklahoma Stampede"

—Robert McKinney, Tulsa, OK

Most Exciting Wrestlers: The Midnight Rockers

—Greg Muselli, Belleville, NJ



Most Hated Anti-American: Bob Geigel—for giving Magnum T.A.'s U.S. belt to a Russian!

—Marjane Houghteln
Verona, PA

Most Hated Fan Favorite: (tie) Dusty Rhodes and Ronnie Garvin

—Danny Ford, Owensboro, KY

Most Improved Looks: Andre the Giant putting on a mask

—David Stewart, Roby, TX

Most Improved Television Show: Continental Wrestling

—Travis Edgeworth, Mobile, AL



Most Intimidating Tag Team: The Road Warriors

—Tom Urban, Millers Falls, MA

Most Out-Of-Shape Wrestler: Adrian Adonis

—Christopher Affie, West Haven, CT

Most Telegraphed Sneak-Attack Since Hitler Blitzed Poland: Paul Orndorff's sneak-attack on Hogan

—Roger Coghill, Omaha, NE

Most Weight Gained But Not Shown In Ratings: Andre the Giant—still 497!

—Steve Sadler, Bourbonnais, IL

Naturally Weird: The Shepherders

—Stacey S. McBride, Houston, TX

Needs A Punch In The Face Most: Eddie Ellner

—Mark McCormick, Providence, RI

No Backbone Award: NWA President Bob Geigel for not standing up to The Four Horsemen

—Carol Anderson, Appleton, WI

Odd Couple: Dark Journey and The Missing Link

—Ronald Brush, Brooklyn, NY

Once A Bitch, Always A Bitch: Baby Doll

—Ronnie Sais, Buena Park, CA

Over The Hill And Still Wrestling: Bruno Sammartino

—Jube Tremblay and Gail Hamel
Ste-Foy, Quebec

Pat Him On The Back To Mark The Spot For The Dagger: Paul Orndorff

—Jay Davenport, Cumberland, RI

Pee Wee Herman Humanitarian Award: Jim Cornette

—Roger McClean, Los Angeles, CA

Phlegm In The Throat Award: Cowboy Bob Orton

—Neil Knaap, Washington, NJ

Picasso Brothers Look-alikes: Adrian Adonis and The Honky Tonk Man

—Jim Carey, Boston, MA

Please! Not Another: Dusty Rhodes-Ric Flair match

—Wilbe Baker, Middleboro, MA

Poetry In Motion: Lanny Poffo

—David Van Antwerp, Oak Ridge, NJ

Politician Of The Year (All Promises, No Results): Dusty Rhodes

—Tommy Lesko and Linda Kratochvila,
Pittsburgh, PA

Professional Wrestling's Garbage Pail Kid: Crusher Yurkof (Barn Barn Bigelow)

—Roger Johnson, Dallas, TX

Question Mark: Why are all Russians bald?

—Wilbe Baker, Middleboro, MA

Quote Of The Year: Vince McMahon, in the Winter edition of *Wrestling* 86, saying that the NWA is a "very regional promotion."

—Steve Sadler, Bourbonnais, IL

Ralph Kramden "I Got A B-I-I-G Mouth" Award: Jim Cornette

—Craig Liggeons, Philadelphia, PA

Referee Of The Year: David Manning

—Barbara Jo Ritter, Moatsville, WV

Ripoff Of The Year: WrestleMania 2

—Brent Wilhide, Sharpsburg, MD

Road Warrior Wannabees: (three-way tie) The Blade Runners, The Marx Brothers, and Konga the Barbarian

—Matthew Marchenko, Uniontown, PA

Rocky Balboa Gutsiest Wrestler Award: Kendall Windham

—Ray Carattini, Richmond Hill, NY

Royalty Ain't What It Used To Be: Harley Race is crowned King of Wrestling

—Dave Marshall, Philadelphia, PA

Saddest Sight: The Road Warriors teaming up with that fat slob Dusty Rhodes

—Bill Brennan, Atlantic City, NJ

Should Have Been A Sliding Coach: Tommy Young

—John Fulton, Summerville, SC

Silver Platter Award: Nick Bockwinkel

—Darrell Gerry, Lynn, MA

Singlemost Powerful Dropkick Of The Year: Siva Afi—who knocked Iron Mike Sharpe out of the ring and over

the railing at Madison Square Garden

—Rob Ranen, Dallas, TX

Somebody Please Shoot Them All And Put Them Out Of Our Misery: AWA

—Jim Carey, Boston, MA

Spudd Webb Award (Given To The Best Wrestler Under Six Feet Tall): Buzz Sawyer

—Craig Liggeons, Philadelphia, PA

Strongest Wrestler: Road Warrior Hawk

—Derek Watkins, Lima, OH

Stupidest Pro Wrestling Illustrated-Endorsed Contest Of The Year And All The Years: The Easy Liz contest

—Eric Cohen, Staten Island, NY

Stupidest Promotional Tactic Of The Year: The WWF telling people that Jesse Barr is Jimmy Jack Funk

—Billy Dennis, Horn Lake, MS

Sure Bet For Future Champion: Scott Hall

—Stephen Sims, Schaumburg, IL

Tag Team I'd Love To See: Hulk Hogan and Lex Luger

—Chris Mason, Lima, OH

Tag Team To Watch: Rick Steiner and Sting

—Dan Kuester, Richland, MO

Tallest Tale: Playboy Buddy Rose insisting his weight is 217 pounds

—Mike Castick, Youngstown, OH

Tasteful Redecoration: Roddy Piper's destruction of "The Flower Shop" with a baseball bat

—Jim Carey, Boston, MA

Tell It Like It Is Award: Ric Flair's analysis of his NWA World title loss to Dusty Rhodes

—Pat Hardy, Woodville, TX

That's Why The Lady Is A Tramp: (three-way tie) Missy Hyatt, Precious, and Baby Doll

—Kimberly Brown, Saugus, MA

The Minor League Of Professional Wrestling: AWA

—Chris McCarthy, Boston, MA

Achievement '86

Thumbs Down: To the UWF for ending almost every one of their TV shows in the middle of a great match
—Dan Maxine, Mineola, NY

Times Change, People Change, But You're Still Ugly: Capt. Lou Albano
—Craig Banko, Colonia, NJ

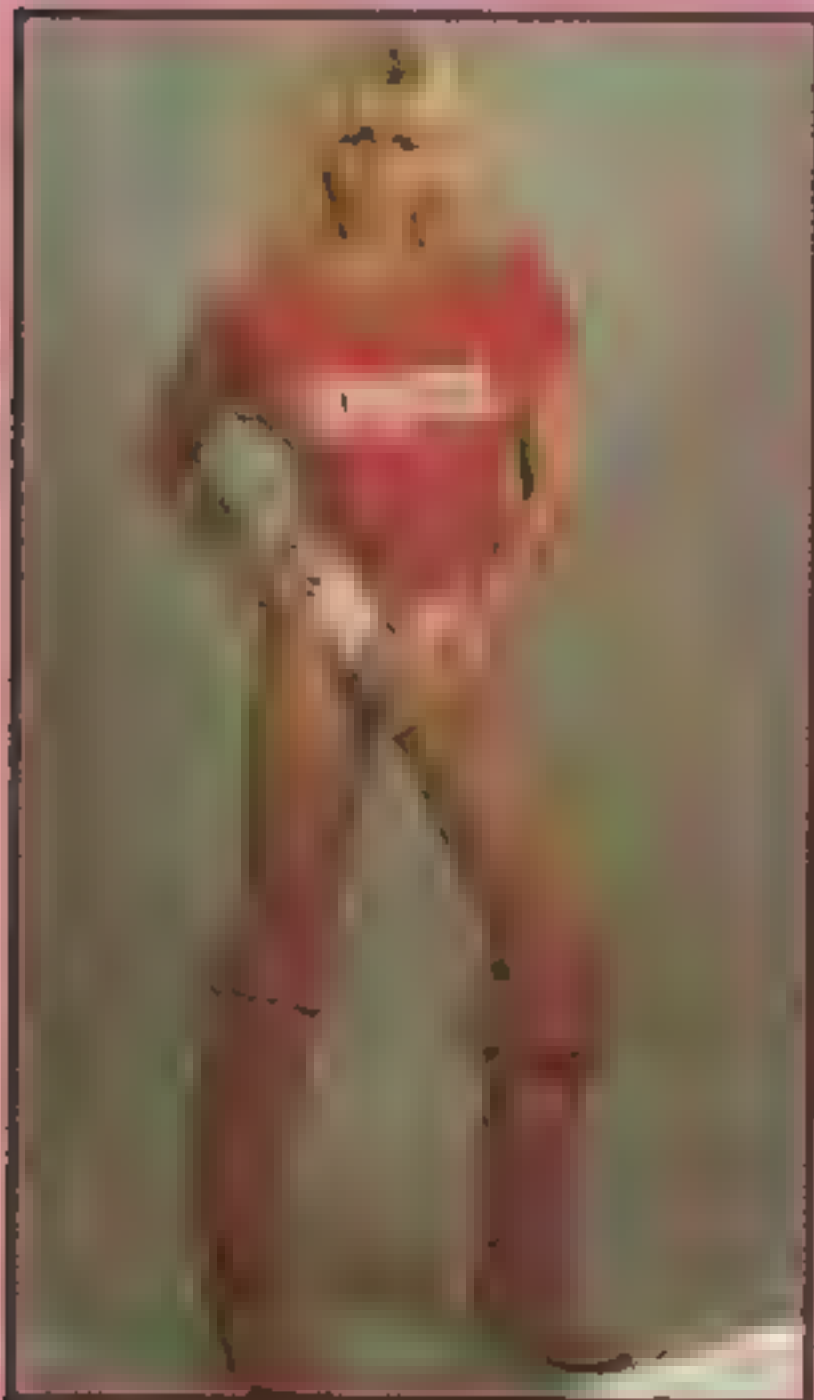
Toughest Schedule Award: Ric Flair, for his title defenses during The Great American Bash
—Jonathan Myers, Bergenfield, NJ

Travesty Of Justice: Steve Simpson losing his part of the World Class six-man title
—Sean Smith, King Of Prussia, PA

Ugliest Wrestler Of The Year: Crusher Yurkof (Bam Bam Bigelow)
—Troy Kalb, Louisville, KY

Valet I'd Most Like To Be Locked In A Room With: Fallen Angel
—Eddie Robinson, Hagerstown, MD

Valet I'd Most Like To See In Playboy: Missy Hyatt
—Michael Davis, Richmond, IN



Valet Of The Year: Missy Hyatt
—Tom Casey, Mittenon, IL

Village Idiot: Eddie Ellner
—Kevin Dunston, Greenville, TX

Waste Of Air Time Award: Pro Wrestling Illustrated Scouting Reports featuring Bill Apter
—Mickey Shock, Shreveport, LA

When The Going Gets Tough, The Tough Leave Town: Bill Jack Haynes
—Craig Liggeons, Philadelphia, PA

Will She Ever Make Up Her Mind? Baby Doll
—Renee Katruska, Spokane, WA

Wimps Of The Year: Rock 'n' Roll Express
—Joey Summers, Mt. Juliet, TN



Worst Bleach Job: Butch "The Natural" Reed
—Scott Williams, Cypress, TX

Worst Commentator: David Crockett
—Craig Sitterndon, Great Lakes, IL

Worst Live Shows: WWF
—Betsey Anderson, Boston, MA

Worst-Looking Lady Wrestler: Adrian Adonis
—Greg Shoemaker, Chatsworth, GA

Worst Referee: Danny Davis
—Bill Papastefan, Chicago, IL

Worst Wrestler Of The Year: Hulk Hogan
—Donna Noftsker, Sinclairville, NY

Worst Wrestling Official (Ha Ha!): Bob Geigel
—William R. Moe, Duluth, MN

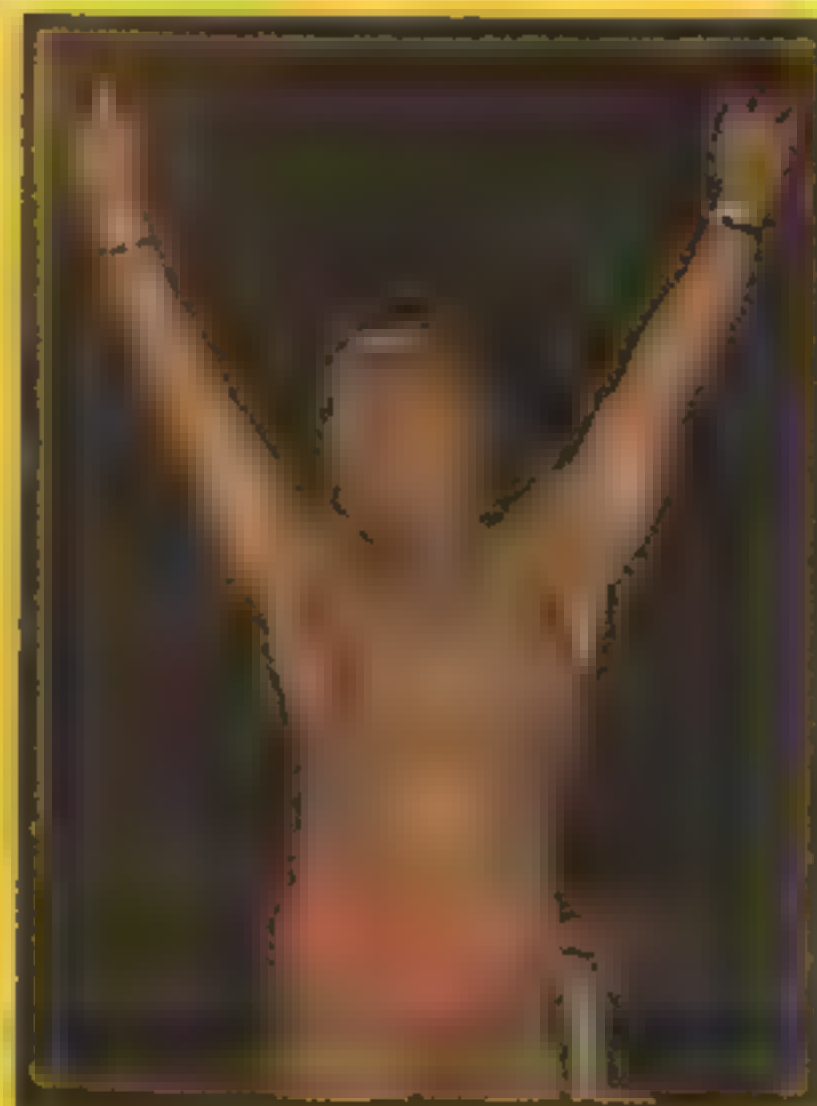


Would Rather Be A Cartoon Character Than A Wrestler: Sgt. Slaughter
—Dom Benanducci, Vernon Hills, IL

Wrestler Used To Retrieve Footballs From Sewers: Kendall Windham
—Tom Dias, Colorado Springs, CO

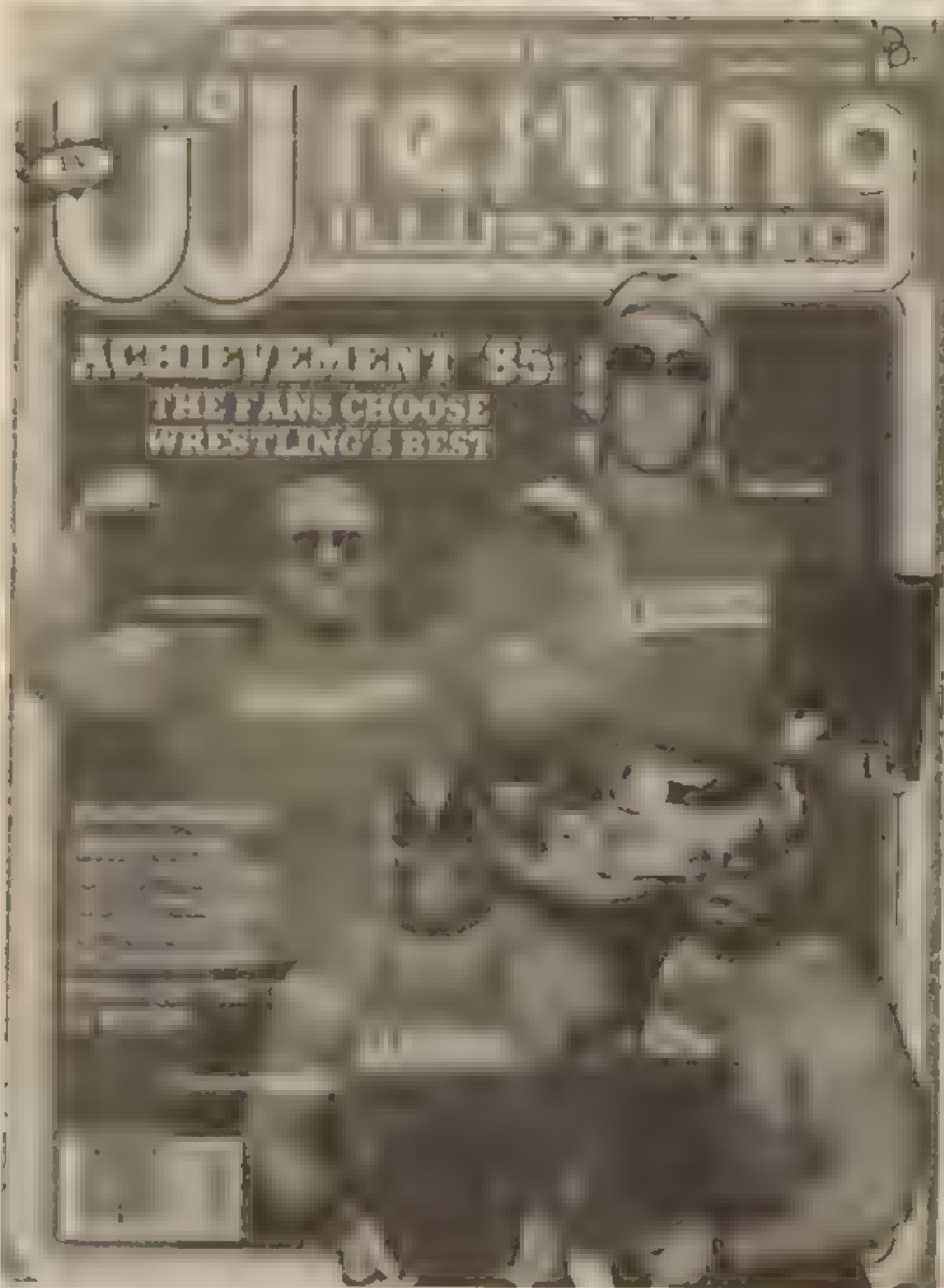
Wrestling's Best Candidate For A Real Pencil-Necked Geek: David Crockett
—Arthur Ford Jr., New York, NY

You're Ugly And Your Mother Dresses You Funny: Jim Cornette
—Stoley Small, Washington Depot, CT



Zonker Harris Tanning Trophy: Lance Von Erch
—Gary Elbot, Dallas, TX

A SECOND CHANCE TO CATCH "THE BIG ONE"



The year-end issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* is always the most anticipated wrestling magazine of the year. And the 1985 year-end issue (March 1986 cover date) was the best one we ever published. At 92 pages, it was our biggest magazine ever and, in addition to the year-end features *PWI* readers have come to expect, it contained eight full-color pages. We have limited supplies of this newsstand sell-out, so don't be disappointed twice. Order your copy today. Only \$5.00.

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KING'S COURT

(Continued from page 10)

For Sgt. Slaughter: A contract to wrestle for a major promotion, so he can escape the "Whatever Happened To ..." columns of newspapers and magazines everywhere.



Sgt. Slaughter fights his way to the ring during the days when he worked for a major promotion—when there were enough fans seeing him that he had to fight the crowds.

For Kevin Von Erich: The ability, now that he's World Class champion, to revitalize the area and make Texas wrestling as big as it was just a few short years ago.

For The British Bulldogs: A manager to replace the irreplaceable Capt. Lou Albano.

For Magnum T.A.: A complete recovery, which would prove that the power of prayer is the strongest force in the universe.

For Nikita Koloff: A copy of the U.S. Declaration of Independence, so he can fully understand just how honorable this country is.

For The Road Warriors: Since the fans did not give them the "Tag Team of the Year" award for the first time in four years, I would like to give them back the mean, ornery, take-no-prisoners style of wrestling that made them the world's most feared and successful tag team.

For Paul Orndorff: An "I'm sorry" speech, to be delivered to Hulk Hogan and the fans when "Mr. Wonderful How I'll Wrestle Today" decides to become a fan favorite again.

For The AWA: A life-saving transfusion of talent and ideas ... fast!

For Chris Adams: A year of problem-free wrestling, both physical and mental, so he can reach his full potential and become one of the best wrestlers in the world

For Roddy Piper: A portable lie detector, so he can prove to Hulk Hogan and the fans before every match that he will not sneak-attack The Hulkster when they tag team.

For Bruno Sammartino: Overdue recognition that he is a fine announcer and a classy presence on the WWF television shows.



Bruno Sammartino is, in King's opinion, one of the very best announcers in the sport. It's time that all WWF viewers understand that Bruno brings style and class to WWF broadcasts.

For WWF TV Interviewer Ken Resnick: A job more fitting his unique skills, like being the store announcer in a K-Mart.

For Jesse Ventura: An Emmy award for being the best damn sportscaster on TV.

For All Our Loyal Readers: A great 1987, and our thanks for making us the largest-selling wrestling magazine in the history of the world! See you next month. ☐

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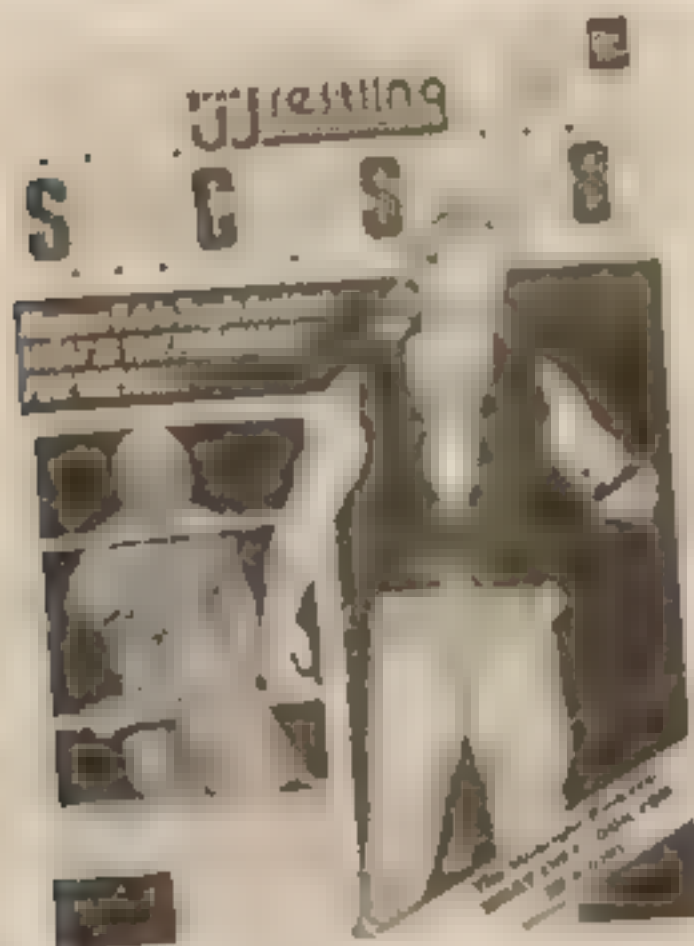


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RINGSIDE

(Continued from page 8)



Dusty Rhodes and Nikita Koloff, once bitter enemies, are now teaming with each other. The development has been hailed as wrestling's equivalent to a superpower summit. The American Dream meets The Russian Nightmare. Nikita's uncle Ivan is not happy.

wrong," says Ivan. "He was here to complete a mission and he did not complete that mission. Now he must pay the price. He must understand that no matter what he says, there are rules and he did not follow those rules."

The rules Ivan speaks of are the ones that say that a Russian, Nikita Koloff in particular, is not supposed to sympathize with an American, the injured **Magnum T.A.** in particular, and start helping out another American, **Dusty Rhodes** in particular. But that's just what Nikita, the U.S. champion, did after the serious injuries suffered by T.A. in an automobile accident on October 14.

Magnum T.A. remains in critical but stable condition in Charlotte Memorial Hospital and is making slight improvement. There is no prognosis on his condition and physical therapists are working with T.A. to increase movement in parts of his body.

Former WWF World champ **Bruno Sammartino** is feuding with Inter-

continental champion **Randy "Macho Man" Savage**. It all started when Savage virtually butchered **Rick Steamboat** during a televised match on which Sammartino was doing color commentary. Steamboat was taken off in an ambulance and Sammartino went to the lockerroom to get a progress report from the ring side physician.

Sammartino then interviewed Savage, who started gloating about what he did to Steamboat. An enraged Sammartino got disgusted by what he was hearing and beat up Savage. The possibilities for this feud are endless.

Fritz Von Erich challenged **Abdullah the Butcher** to a match with unusual stipulations. Fritz can only win with his famed clawhold and Abdullah can only win with the pyth sleeper ... **The Honky Tonk Man** has indicated that he is not surprised that the fans did not include him on the Most Popular list in a recent WWF poll. But he's not happy about this and could be ready to turn rule



breaker ... Former AWA World champion **Stan Hansen** is in hot pursuit of **Carlos Colon's** World Wrestling Council title.

Brian Adidas, longtime friend of the Von Erich family, seems to have changed his opinion about the first family of Texas wrestling. Adidas flew off the handle during a scientific match against **Mike Von Erich** and attacked his former friend. "To heck with the Von Erichs," said Adidas. "I

want title matches, not friendship. Being a friend of the Von Erichs gets you nowhere. Look at Steve Simpson. What's it done for him? Well, I'm not gonna just sit back and take this crap. I'm looking out for number one!"

Bad News Allen is coming to Florida. Allen has wrestled in Hawaii the past couple of years and will aim for **Lex Luger's** Southern title and **Barry Windham's** Florida belt. In

Brian Adidas has long been a close friend to the Von Erichs. No more. Adidas has decided that success is more important than friendship, and he has turned against wrestling's First Family.

other Florida news, **Ron Simmons** the man who replaced the injured **Stan Lane** of **The Fabulous Ones** is feuding with **Ron Bass**. "I can make it big if I can knock off Bass," says Simmons. "Let's face it. Bass is a legend in Florida."

AWA officials are still trying to pry **Tommy Rich** from the Mid-Southern area and form a tag team with his cousin **Johnny Rich**. Contractual obligations are keeping this deal from going through, but if AWA promoters are successful, they'll match Tommy and Johnny against World tag team champs **Buddy Rose** and **Doug Somers**. "Wrestling with my cousin would be fantastic," says Johnny. "I think that we could beat Rose and Somers, just because of our teamwork."

Linda Dallas broke her wrist during a match against **Misty Blue** in Florida ... **Larry Zbyszko's** new bodyguard is **The Super Ninja**, a 6'4", 280-pound martial arts expert ... **Bobby Heenan** has purchased the managerial rights to **Hercules Hernandez** from **Slick**.

That's all for now. See you at the matches. □

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This special feature is for all fans who want to know who won and who lost . . . and how. *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* will print eyewitness reports from correspondents who attend the matches. If you'd like to have your correspondent report printed in the world's largest-selling wrestling magazine, send it to: *Arena Report*; PWI, Box 48; Rockville Centre, NY 11571.

BOSTON GARDEN (Boston): Piper Machine, Super Machine, & Giant Machine beat King Kong Bundy, John Studd, & Bobby Heenan . . . Randy Savage defeated George "The Animal" Steele . . . Tito Santana beat Harley Race . . . The Islanders downed Jimmy Jack Funk & Mr. X . . . Cowboy Bob Orton pinned Pedro Morales . . . Samoan Sika defeated Jerry Allen . . . Mr. X pinned Rudy Diamond.

—Miles Balgochian

BOUTWELL AUDITORIUM (Birmingham, AL): Exotic Adrian Street defeated Rip Rogers . . . Roy Lee Welch beat Dr. Tom Pritchard by disqualification . . . The Nightmares defeated The Executioner & The Mongol . . . Sheik Abdullah & Kris Von Colt beat Russ Hall & Duke Myers.

—Jennifer Lucas

CAPITAL CENTRE (Landover, MD): Hulk Hogan defeated Paul Orndorff by climbing over the top of the steel cage . . . Randy Savage beat The Honky Tonk Man by countout . . . Koko B. Ware pinned Tiger Chung Lee . . . Junkyard Dog pinned Bob Bradley . . . Cpl. Kirchner pinned Steve Lombardi . . . Pedro Morales pinned The Red Demon . . . Hercules Hernandez and Billy Jack Haynes battled to a draw.

—Stacey Chaney

CIVIC ARENA (Pittsburgh): Ric Flair beat Dusty Rhodes by disqualification when Rhodes hit the referee with his cast . . . The Rock 'n' Roll Express defeated Ole & Arn Anderson . . . Wahoo McDaniel beat Tully Blanchard by disqualification when J.J. Dillon tripped McDaniel . . . Nikita Koloff beat Brad Armstrong . . . Ronnie Garvin & Dick Murdoch battled The Midnight Express to a time-limit draw . . . Jim Garvin beat Hector Guerrero . . . Rick Rude defeated Tim Horner.

—Brian Knouse

CIVIC CENTER (Lansing, MI): Rick Morton & Ron Garvin (substituting for Robert Gibson) defeated Ole & Arn Anderson . . . Wahoo McDaniel beat Baron Von Raschke . . . Tim Horner pinned Ivan Koloff . . . Nelson Royal defeated The Grim Reaper . . . Bill Dundee defeated Keith Patterson . . . Gary Royal drew with Keith Patterson.

—Michelle Gomez

CIVIC CENTER (Philadelphia): The Rock 'n' Roll Express defeated Ole & Arn Anderson by disqualification . . . Dusty Rhodes beat J.J. Dillon by countout . . . Ivan & Nikita Koloff & Krusher Khrushchev beat Wahoo McDaniel, Jimmy Valiant, & Dick Murdoch . . . Brad Armstrong beat Jim Garvin by disqualification . . . Manny Fernandez pinned Hector Guerrero . . . Baron Von Raschke defeated Nelson Royal . . . The Midnight Express beat Tim Horner & Don Kernodle . . . Rick Rude pinned Davey G.

—John Finnegan

KNOXVILLE CIVIC COLISEUM (Knoxville, TN): Exotic Adrian Street & Miss Linda defeated Hustler Rip Rogers & Brenda Brittan . . . The Bullet & Tennessee Stud defeated The New Guinea Headhunters by disqualification . . . Tom Pritchard and Roy Lee Welch wrestled to a draw . . . Sheik Abdullah & Kris Von Colt defeated Ron Sexton & Russ Hall . . . Wendell Cooley defeated "Dirty White Boy" Tony Anthony . . . The Tennessee Stud defeated Kevin Sullivan by disqualification.

—Stacy Mealer

MISSISSIPPI COAST COLISEUM (Biloxi, MS): Ted DiBiase defeated Michael Hayes by disqualification in a lumberjack match when Terry Gordy interfered . . . The Missing Link & Dark Journey won by disqualification over Eddie Gilbert & Missy Hyatt . . . Chris Adams defeated Terry Gordy by disqualification . . . The Fantastics defeated Eddie Gilbert & Sting in a best-of-three-falls match . . . Art Crews beat Joe Savoldi . . . Jeff Gaylord beat The Libyan.

—Alfie Sumrall

MADISON SQUARE GARDEN (New York): The Islanders won a 12-team \$50,000 tag team battle royal by ousting John Studd & King Kong Bundy . . . Brett Hart defeated Raymond Rougeau . . . King Tonga pinned Nikolai Volkoff . . . Greg Valentine defeated Davey Boy Smith . . . Mike Rotundo and Jim Brunzell battled to a double-countout . . . Jacques Rougeau beat The Iron Sheik . . . The Dynamite Kid beat Jim Neidhart . . . King Kong Bundy defeated Super Machine . . . Brutus Beefcake downed B. Brian Blair . . . The Tonga Kid defeated Moondog Rex . . . S.D. Jones beat Moondog Spot.

—Gregg Savarese

REPORT

LOS ANGELES SPORTS ARENA (Los Angeles): Hulk Hogan defeated Paul Orndorff by disqualification ... The Rougeaus defeated Brett Hart & Jim Neidhart ... Harley Race defeated George Steele by disqualification ... Tito Santana pinned Cowboy Bob Orton ... Lanny Poffo beat Jack Armstrong ... Ted Arcidi beat Tony Garea ... Nick Kiniski defeated Steve Regal ... Samoan Sika defeated George Wells ... Billy Jack Haynes defeated Mr. X by submission ... Tonga Kid beat Moondog Spot ... King Tonga defeated Moondog Rex.

—Jamal Newton

MECCA ARENA (Milwaukee): Hulk Hogan & The Crusher defeated John Studd & King Kong Bundy ... Randy Savage and Jake Roberts battled to a double-disqualification in an Intercontinental title match ... Magnificent Muraco pinned Super Machine ... Big Machine pinned Jose Luis Rivera ... Samoan Sika pinned Lanny Poffo ... Pedro Morales pinned Siva Afi ... Gene Kiniski defeated Paul Martin.

—Gregory Goll

JOE LOUIS ARENA (Detroit): Paul Orndorff defeated Hulk Hogan by disqualification ... Rick Steamboat defeated Randy Savage by countout ... Samoan Sika pinned Lanny Poffo ... The Honky Tonk Man defeated Steve Lombardi ... Tito Santana pinned Jimmy Jack Funk ... Jake Roberts defeated Siva Afi ... Jerry Valiant was pinned by Frenchy Martin ... Cpl. Kirchner and Nick Kiniski wrestled to a draw.

—Wesley E.E. Browne

THE SPECTRUM (Philadelphia): Hulk Hogan defeated Paul Orndorff ... Randy Savage defeated The Honky Tonk Man by countout ... Hillbilly Jim defeated Mr. Fuji in a tuxedo match ... Billy Jack Haynes battled Hercules Hernandez to a draw ... Kamala defeated Lanny Poffo ... Pedro Morales beat Steve Lombardi ... Koko B. Ware beat The Red Demon ... Cpl. Kirchner defeated Tiger Chung Lee.

—Kevin Thomson

TUCSON COMMUNITY CENTER (Tucson, AZ): The British Bulldogs beat The Iron Sheik & Nikolai Volkoff ... The Rougeaus defeated Greg Valentine & Brutus Beefcake ... King Kong Bundy & Big John Studd defeated The Machines ... The Killer Bees defeated The Moondogs ... Brett Hart & Jim Neidhart defeated Mike Rotundo & S.D. Jones ... The Islanders defeated Gatorwolf & Chief Jay Strongbow.

—Marc O'Sullivan

MONTREAL FORUM (Montreal, Quebec): John Studd & King Kong Bundy defeated Super Machine & Big Machine ... Greg Valentine, Brutus Beefcake, & Pat Patterson defeated Armand, Jacques, & Raymond Rougeau ... Dino Bravo defeated Randy Savage by disqualification ... Samoan Sika defeated S.D. Jones ... Koko B. Ware defeated Red Demon ... King Tonga defeated Harley Race ... The Tonga Kid defeated Frenchy Martin.

—Anne Charron

PEORIA CIVIC CENTER (Peoria, IL): Roddy Piper defeated Magnificent Muraco ... King Kong Bundy beat Big Machine ... John Studd defeated Super Machine ... Tito Santana and Jake Roberts wrestled to a time-limit draw ... Lanny Poffo defeated Barry O ... Nick Kiniski defeated Steve Regal.

—Shaun Guthrie

SAM HOUSTON COLISEUM (Houston): Ted DiBiase defeated Terry Gordy in a non-title steel cage match ... Ted DiBiase beat Michael Hayes in a country whipping match ... Hacksaw Duggan, Chavo Guerrero, & The Missing Link defeated One Man Gang, Bad Leroy Brown, & Rick Steiner ... John Tatum & Jack Victory defeated Eddie Gilbert & Sting by countout ... Terry Taylor and Buddy Roberts wrestled to a draw ... Ice-man King Parsons beat Art Crews ... Savannah Jack pinned The Libyan ... Rick Steiner defeated Joe Savoldi.

—Steven Reaves

RECAP: The animosity between Hulk Hogan and Paul Orndorff is resulting in a lot of double disqualifications ... The Rock 'n' Roll Express have been getting the better of Ole and Arn Anderson in their feud ... The Honky Tonk Man seems to be receiving a lot of Intercontinental title matches against Randy Savage despite not having faced much WWF competition ... Brad Armstrong is off to a shaky start in the World Championship area ... Ted DiBiase is wrestling extremely well, and could defeat Terry Gordy for the UWF title if given enough opportunities ... The Islanders are proving to be very popular in the WWF ... The Rougeaus are on a roll ... Rick Rude is not getting the top-caliber opposition he deserves ... Mike Rotundo has been teaming with a variety of partners in the wake of Dan Spivey's injury ... Special thanks to correspondents from the UWF and Continental areas this month; how about you folks in the AWA, Florida, and the Mid-Southern areas? □

WRESTLING ENQUIRER

LOU ALBANO RETIRES!

Legendary Manager To Remain With WWF In Advisory Capacity

By BILL APTER

GLENS FALLS, NY—Capt. Lou Albano, considered by many as the greatest manager in the history of professional wrestling, has announced his retirement.

Albano made the shocking announcement following a match in Glens Falls, New York, in which he and his British Bulldogs took on Johnny V, Greg Valentine, and Brutus Beefcake. Albano pinned Johnny V and then revealed his plans.

"I am retiring from managing in wrestling, but I will stay on as a consultant to the WWF," said Albano. "I intend to pursue a career in movies and commercials, but most important, I plan to dedicate my life to fighting multiple sclerosis." Albano is national chairman of fund raising for the Multi-



Capt. Lou Albano, who was voted Manager of the Year for 1986, has decided to retire from active managing. In addition to other activities, he will devote much of his time to fundraising for the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation.

ple Sclerosis Foundation.

During his illustrious managerial career, Albano managed 13 different tag teams to an unprecedented 16 WWF World tag team titles. But perhaps his finest moment came on January 18, 1971, in Madison Square Garden when he guided Ivan Koloff to victory over WWF World champion Bruno Sammartino, ending the "Living Legend's" 7½-year title reign. Albano was voted "Manager of the Year" in 1986 and is a three-time winner of that honor.

"I have achieved so many unbelievable things that even I cannot top myself any more in professional wrestling," said Albano. "I have a lot of great memories—one day maybe I'll write a book. For now I want to say thank you to the fans and press. Though the Captain is retired, you haven't seen the last of him."

I plan to dedicate my life to fighting multiple sclerosis." Albano is national chairman of fund raising for the Multi-

Snuka Prognosis Much Improved



Jimmy Snuka is recovering from injuries inflicted by Col. DeBeers.

By RICH COUNTIS

ST. PAUL, MN—Jimmy Snuka's chances of returning to active wrestling duty are better than first expected, according to physicians.

In fact, Snuka now has "a better than 50 percent chance of getting back in the ring before February," says Dr. Ralph Richardson. "The injuries to his neck, which are the ones we feared most, are not as severe as previously thought. Apparently, when Col. DeBeers delivered this piledriver to Mr. Snuka, he was off by a fraction of an inch. That might have been the difference."

Buoyed by this encouraging news, Snuka immediately announced that he is willing to take on DeBeers any time, any place, and under any conditions. "I will show that filthy DeBeers that he can never keep me down," said Snuka. "They said I was finished, but now I know that I can fight back."

DeBeers delivered several piledrivers to Snuka on the concrete floor during a Las Vegas television match. Snuka was taken by ambulance to the nearest hospital and diagnosed as having severe neck, hip, knee, and foot injuries. Snuka was "in horrible shape when he arrived," according to Richardson, but has shown marked improvement.

DeBeers was dismayed upon hearing the news about Snuka but would not comment further.

Capt. Lou Albano, who was voted Manager of the Year for 1986, has decided to retire from active managing. In addition to other activities, he will devote much of his time to fundraising for the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation.

Broken Leg Sidelines Hawk

By CRAIG PETERS

MORIOKA, JAPAN—Road Warrior Hawk suffered a broken left leg during a match here on October 29 in which The Road Warriors battled All-Japan International tag team champions Yoshiaki Yatsu and Riki Choshu.

Hawk's left fibula was cracked in two places during the match when he was the victim of a particularly vicious backdrop by the Japanese team. The injury may keep him out of the ring for up to six weeks.

Dr. Frederick Mosley, a sports medicine doctor in Minnesota, is treating Hawk with electrolisis, an electrical form of healing that stimulates muscle and bone growth. Dr. Joseph Estwanick, an orthopedic specialist in Charlotte, North Carolina, has been building a series of casts for Hawk, who will receive a new cast every week.

"I'll be back, and I'll be back by Starrcade!" Hawk said. "No puny two-bit bruise like this is gonna keep me from knocking The Midnight Express off the scaffold. I'll wrestle, even



Road Warrior Hawk suffered a broken left leg in two places during a match in Japan.

if I have to wrestle in a cast! Hahaha!" The Warriors are scheduled to wrestle The Midnight Express in a scaffold match at Starrcade '86.

Speculation has arisen that Jim Cornette, the manager of the Midnight Express, paid Choshu and Yatsu to inflict the injury and sideline Hawk before Starrcade.

"Ridiculous!" was all Cornette would say in response. "Absolutely ridiculous! We're not afraid of the Warriors. Ridiculous!"

Adams Sentenced To Three Months

By STU SAKS

FT. WORTH, TX—Chris Adams was sentenced by a Fort Worth federal judge to spend three months in prison and pay a \$500 fine for an attack on an American Airlines co-pilot last June.

During a flight from San Juan to Dallas-Ft. Worth, Adams became incensed when flight attendants refused to serve him more liquor. The drunken former World Class champion grabbed co-pilot John Bentley by the collar and headbutted him three times. Bentley was not seriously injured.

It was the first offense for Adams, who was convicted of misdemeanor

assault.

"Because he was in the public limelight, he was idolized by the community either as an athlete or entertainer," said U.S. District Judge Eldon B. Mahon as he handed down the sentence. "He had a lot of young children following him . . . This is not a very good example. The world has to know that a star is not above the law."

At press time, Adams' lawyers were appealing the case. According to UWF officials, the incident will not affect his standing. "He obviously has to serve his sentence, but we expect him to pick up his career after the three months," said a UWF official.

AROUND THE GLOBE

CHIBA, JAPAN

Fans here thrilled to the professional debut on October 16 of Yukon Erica, a powerful female grappler who left the crowd breathless with her magnificent feats of strength. It has been reported that Yukon Erica, though a woman, has a physique to rival that of Rick Rude, Paul Orndorff, or Nikita Koloff. American promoters are scrambling to sign this future superstar to a U.S. tour.

BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

Yoshiaki Yatsu, one half of the all-Japan International tag team championship team with Riki Choshu, petitioned FILA, the international governing body for amateur wrestling, to be able to compete in the 1988 Olympic Games. Yatsu argued that pro and amateur wrestling were different sports, thus he should be able to compete in the Olympics. FILA turned down Yatsu's petition on the basis that his experience as a professional athlete made him ineligible to compete among amateurs.

TOKYO, JAPAN

AWA Women's champion Sherri Martel successfully defended her title here against Shinobu Kanderi via disqualification. Kanderi, a four-time world champion in women's judo, was heavily favored to win the match. Her impressive martial arts skills, however, were unable to overcome Martel's wily penchant for bending the rulebook.